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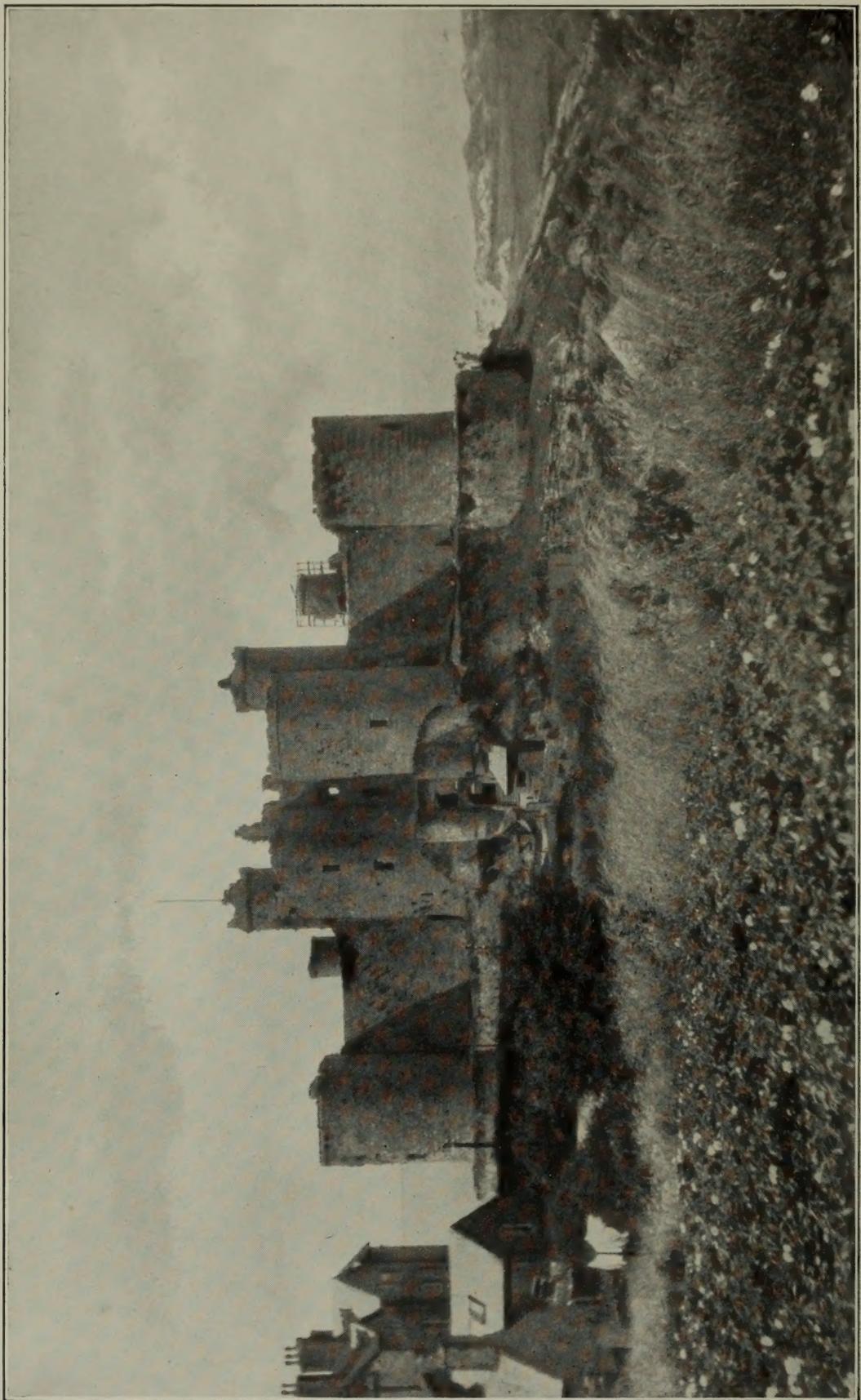








FIG. 1. LLANDANWG: HARLECH CASTLE (No. 163).



(The Royal Commission)

on

(The Ancient and Historical Monuments)

(and Constructions)

in

(Wales and Monmouthshire.)

AN

INVENTORY

OF

THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS

IN

WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.

VI.—COUNTY OF MERIONETH.



358371  
9.12.38.

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Royal Warrant authorizing and appointing the Commission.

**EDWARD, R. & I.**

EDWARD THE SEVENTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas KING, Defender of the Faith; to

Our trusty and well-beloved:—

SIR JOHN RHYS, Knight, Principal of Jesus College in Our University of Oxford, and Professor of Celtic in Our said University;

EDWARD ANWYL, Esquire, Master of Arts, Professor of Celtic in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth;

ROBERT CARR BOSANQUET, Esquire, Master of Arts, Professor of Classical Archaeology in the University of Liverpool;

ROBERT HUGHES, Esquire, Ex-Lord Mayor of the City of Cardiff, President of the Cardiff Cymrodorion Society;

GRIFFITH HARTWELL JONES, Doctor of Divinity, Rector of Nutfield;

WILLIAM EDWIN LLEWELLYN MORGAN, Esquire, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel on the retired list of Our Army; and

EVAN VINCENT-EVANS, Esquire, Secretary of the Honourable Society of Cymrodorion;

**GREETING!**

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to make an inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions connected with or illustrative of the contemporary culture, civilisation, and conditions of life of the people in Wales and Monmouthshire from the earliest times, and to specify those which seem most worthy of preservation:

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorized and appointed, and do by these Presents authorize and appoint you, the said Sir John Rhys (Chairman); Edward Anwyl; Robert Carr Bosanquet; Robert Hughes; Griffith Hartwell Jones; William Edwin Llewellyn Morgan; and Evan Vincent-Evans, to be Our Commissioners for the purposes of the said enquiry:

And for the better enabling you to carry out the purposes of this Our Commission, We do by these Presents authorize you to call in the aid and co-operation of owners of ancient monuments, inviting them to assist you in furthering the objects of the Commission; and to invite the possessors of such papers as you may deem it desirable to inspect to produce them before you:

And We do further give and grant unto you, or any three or more of you, full power to call before you such persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any information upon the subject of this Our Commission; and also to call for, have access to and examine all such books, documents, registers and records as may afford you the fullest information on the subject, and to enquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever:

And We do by these Presents authorize and empower you, or any three or more of you, to visit and personally inspect such places as you may deem it expedient so to inspect for the more effectual carrying out of the purposes aforesaid:

And We do by these Presents will and ordain that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any three or more of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment:

And We do further ordain that you, or any three or more of you, have liberty to report your proceedings under this Our Commission from time to time if you shall judge it expedient so to do :

And Our further will and pleasure is that you do, with as little delay as possible, report to Us, under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any three or more of you, your opinion upon the matters herein submitted for your consideration.

And for the purpose of aiding you in your enquiries We hereby appoint Our trusty and well-beloved Edward Owen, Esquire, of the India Office, Barrister-at-Law, to be Secretary to this Our Commission, and Our trusty and well-beloved Philip Edward Thomas, Esquire, Bachelor of Arts, to be Assistant Secretary to the Commission.

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, the tenth day of *August*,  
one thousand nine hundred and eight, in the eighth year of  
Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

H. J. GLADSTONE.

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Royal Warrant ratifying and confirming the Commission.

### GEORGE R. I.

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas KING, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING !

Whereas it pleased His late Majesty from time to time to issue Royal Commissions of Enquiry for various purposes therein specified :

And whereas, in the case of certain of these Commissions, namely, those known as—

• • • • • The Ancient Monuments (Wales and Monmouthshire) Commission,

the Commissioners appointed by His late Majesty, or such of them as were then acting as Commissioners, were at the late Demise of the Crown, still engaged upon the business entrusted to them :

And whereas We deem it expedient that the said Commissioners should continue their labours in connection with the said enquiries notwithstanding the late Demise of the Crown :

Now know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in the zeal, discretion and ability of the present members of each of the said Commissions, do by these Presents authorize them to continue their labours, and do hereby in every essential particular ratify and confirm the terms of the said several Commissions.

And We do further ordain that the said Commissioners do report to Us under their hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of such of their number as may be specified in the said Commissions respectively, their opinion upon the matters presented for their consideration; and that any proceedings which they or any of them may have taken under and in pursuance of the said Commissions since the late Demise of the Crown and before the issue of these Presents shall be deemed and adjudged to have been taken under and in virtue of this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, the twenty-sixth day of *May*,  
one thousand nine hundred and ten, in the first year of Our  
Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

R. B. HALDANE.

Royal Warrant appointing Henry Owen, Esquire, to the Commission on the death of Sir Edward Anwyl.

**GEORGE, R.I.**

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas KING, Defender of the Faith, to

Our trusty and well-beloved :—

HENRY OWEN, Esquire, Doctor of Civil Law, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries;

**GREETING !**

Whereas by the death of Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Edward Anwyl, Knight, a vacancy has been caused in the body of Commissioners appointed by Warrant under the Royal Sign Manual bearing date the tenth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and eight, to make an inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions connected with or illustrative of the contemporary culture, civilisation, and conditions of life of the people in Wales and Monmouthshire from the earliest times, and to specify those which seem most worthy of preservation :

Now know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, do by these Presents appoint you, the said Henry Owen, to be one of Our Commissioners for the purpose aforesaid, in the room of the said Sir Edward Anwyl, deceased.

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, the twenty-fourth day of *September*, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen; in the fifth year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

R. MCKENNA.

Royal Warrant appointing Sir E. Vincent-Evans to be Chairman, and Colonel J. A. Bradney, C.B., to be a Member of the Commission on the death of the Right Hon. Sir John Rhŷs.

**GEORGE, R.I.**

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas KING, Defender of the Faith, to

Our trusty and well-beloved :—

Sir EVAN VINCENT-EVANS, Knight; and

JOSEPH ALFRED BRADNEY, Esquire, Companion of Our Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Lieutenant-Colonel and Honorary Colonel late 2nd Battalion, the Monmouthshire Regiment, and temporary Lieutenant-Colonel 9th (County of London) Battalion, the London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles);

**GREETING !**

Know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, do by these Presents appoint you, the said Sir Evan Vincent Evans, to be Chairman of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, in the room of Sir John Rhŷs, Knight, deceased; and you the said Joseph Alfred Bradney, to be a Member of the said Commission.

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, the nineteenth day of *February*, one thousand nine hundred and sixteen; in the sixth year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

HERBERT SAMUEL.

Royal Warrant appointing Sir John Morris-Jones, Knight, to the Commission on  
the death of Henry Owen, Esquire.

---

**GEORGE, R.I.**

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas KING, Defender of the Faith, to

Our trusty and well-beloved :—

Sir JOHN MORRIS-JONES, Knight, Master of Arts, Professor of Welsh in the University College of North Wales ;

GREETING !

Know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, do by these Presents appoint you, the said Sir John Morris-Jones, to be a Member of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, in the room of Henry Owen, Esquire, deceased.

Given at Our Court at *Saint James's*, the twelfth day of *May*,  
one thousand nine hundred and twenty ; in the eleventh year  
of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

E. SHORTT.

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*Blocks lent by the Cambrian Archaeological Association.*

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## ROYAL COMMISSION ON ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.

## COUNTY OF MERIONETH.

MONUMENTS SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSION AS  
ESPECIALLY WORTHY OF PRESERVATION.

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38	Corwen	Caer Drewyn	
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43	„	Mutilated Cross-shaft in churchyard	
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90	Gwyddelwern	Dinas Melin y Wig	On the farm of Clegir Ucha.
105	Llanaber	Carneddau Hengwm	
123	„	Pen dinas	
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174	Llandderfel	Caer Euni	
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277	Llanelltyd	Cymmer Abbey	
278	„	Inscribed Stone	In Church porch.
281	Llanenddwyn	The Dyffryn cromlechs	
349	Llanfihangel y Pennant	Castell y Berè	
366	Llanfor	Inscribed Stone	In Church.
416	Llangelynnin	Castell y Gaer	
446	Llanuwchllyn	Caergai	Remains of Roman Station.
492	Maentwrog	Tomen y Mur	Remains of Roman Station, and medieval Mound.
518	Talsarnau	Inscribed Stone	In Church of Llanfihangel y Traethau.
534	Towyn	„ „	In Church.
564	Trawsfynydd	„ „	“ Bedd Porius.”
568	„	Castell Prysor	

# INVENTORY

OF THE

## ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS

OF THE

### COUNTY OF MERIONETH.

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### INTRODUCTION.

THE ancient monuments of the county of Merioneth which are enumerated and briefly described in the following pages constitute a varied and interesting collection of the remains usually thus designated. They do not, indeed, include objects of the highest antiquity. The collection contains no examples that can be proved, or be even surmised, to belong to the Palæolithic period, and it is probable that the scanty products of Neolithic culture do not actually date from that period, but from the subsequent age of Bronze. The physical character of the greater part of the county area rendered it unfavourable for the habitation of early man, and made its penetration, whether from the east or west, from the land or from the sea, a matter of supreme difficulty, and one that would be undertaken only in face of the direst necessity.

THE BRONZE AGE, however, saw the district which to us is known as the modern county of Merioneth, fairly well started on its career down the ages. Some notable examples of bronze-age workmanship have been found within its borders (fig. 68, opp. p. 4). The remains of the people who used those objects are found in embarrassing profusion, and the difficulties of the antiquary commence with the effort to co-ordinate the various classes of archæological remains, whose sole connection with each other is that they must have been in existence contemporaneously. Not only has the circular hut dwelling, which is found all over the county, to be correlated with the gold tore of Brithdir and bronze shield of Llandanwg, but room must be found within the same period for the stone with spiral ornament of Llanbedr (fig. 72), the cromlechs of Dyffryn (figs. 97-99), and the stupendous mounds of Carneddau Hengwm (No. 105).

Attention must be first directed to the presence in Merioneth of a class of alleged antiquities of which there are plentiful indications in Carmarthenshire (see Inventory of that county, p. xxx), and which, if genuine relics of the past, should be classed amongst the earliest of such remains: we refer to the mounds to which, in the absence of any clearer indication than has yet been offered of the purpose which they were intended to fill, the name of prehistoric hearths has been given. The small mound (No. 126A), now almost level with the uneven surface around it, has undoubtedly yielded such evidences as point to the presence and action of heat. For the reasons given in the volume on the monuments of Carmarthenshire already alluded to, we were unable to agree with the claim that the remains in that county should be accepted as works of hoar antiquity. The alleged presence of an example in Merionethshire has not inclined us to modify our conclusions; but further consideration of both the nature and distribution of these puzzling remains is urgently required.

Of the prehistoric monuments of the county by far the most numerous are the ruins of the circular stone enclosures which are known, as well from traditional report as from actual scientific exploration in various parts of Britain, to have been the dwellings of a primitive people. There can be little doubt that many of the Merionethshire examples are genuine remains of early man, but it is equally certain that a considerable proportion are not of the antiquity with which they are generally credited. A number of these in the parishes of Llanaber and Llanddwywe were visited in late autumn when many were found to be partially water-logged, and





FIG. 2. LLANABER: PEN DINAS (No. 122).



FIG. 3. LLANDDERFEL: CAER EUNI (No. 174); south banks and ditch.



FIG. 4. LLANDDERFEL: CAER EUNI (No. 174); north-west.

MERIONETHSHIRE EARTHWORKS: HILL FORTS.



FIG. 5. CORWEN: OWEN GLYNDWR'S MOUND (No. 39).



FIG. 6. LLANEGRYN: TOMEN DDREINIOG (No. 251).



FIG. 7. TOWYN: DOMEN LAS (No. 534).

MERIONETHSHIRE EARTHWORKS: MOUND CASTLES.



in their then condition, were altogether beyond possibility of occupation as dwellings for however short a time.

On the uncertain problem of whether all cromlechs were originally covered by earth or stones the study of the Merionethshire examples does not help towards a definite solution. The great carneddau at Hengwm were manifestly intended to cover the huge cists which, partially exposed, remain still in position, but it may be questioned if the Dyffryn cromlechau were ever so hidden.

For a Welsh county Merioneth is unusually deficient in the small hill-top enclosures which, owing to their simple formation, may be assumed to mark the earliest type of prehistoric defensive structures. But in Caer Euni (No. 174), Caer Drewyn (No. 37), the splendid and entirely unknown camp at the source of the Clwyd river (No. 90), and Moel Goedog (No. 158A), it possesses a quadrilateral, the different members of which exhibit features that we have elsewhere found reason to regard as bringing them within a period not far distant from the dawn of the historic era in Britain.

In connection with these great camps, and with other more peaceful or less extensive structures, we would draw the attention of the student of primitive traditions and the folklorist to the efforts which have been made to identify the places associated with the mythic period of Welsh history. These are of especial interest when they are concerned with so important a position as Tomen y Mur, but they afford perhaps even greater satisfaction when the homes and haunts of Rhitta Gawr or Ophrom Gawr are the objects of search.

**ROMAN.**—Within the present confines of the county of Merioneth are the sites of two small forts, and a third apparently larger, such as were garrisoned by Roman auxiliary troops: Mur Castell or Tomen y Mur, in the parish of Maentwrog (No. 492), Caer Gai in the parish of Llanuwchllyn (No. 446), and Cefn Caer in the parish of Pennal (No. 506). On each of these positions our colleague, Mr. R. C. Bosanquet, F.S.A., has furnished the accounts which will be found under the numbers indicated. Of the last-named, Cefn Caer, whose position on the bank of a tidal river must have given it special importance, very little remains, and of what remains very little is known. Much of it has disappeared within comparatively recent times, and it is highly desirable that careful excavations should be conducted on the site before it is too late.

Lines of communication must have existed between these stations, and also between the more distant stations lying beyond the present county boundaries, but the natural obstacles were doubtless of so overwhelming a nature that the roads were not planned or executed with the thoroughness usually attained by the Roman engineers. At whatever period the term *Sarn Elen* came into popular use it appears to have been originally applied to the roads which were considered to date from Roman times, and to have been constructed by the Romans, though the name would naturally become extended to side roads of later construction, especially near the points of junction with the main routes.

Doubtless, with praiseworthy intentions for their more careful preservation, when as yet the National Museum of Wales did not exist, a number of stones bearing Roman inscriptions, originally brought from the station of Tomen y Mur or its immediate neighbourhood, have been built into the walls of Harlech Castle. A national depository having since been established, these important relics should be removed there from their present somewhat incongruous setting.

After the close of the period of the Roman domination, that is to say, about the fifth century, the site known as Beddau Gwyrr Ardudwy (No. 65), distant just three miles from Tomen y Mur, emerges into unusual and altogether inexplicable prominence. Its name, which is of considerable antiquity, though probably not contemporary with its use as a site, sufficiently betokens its sepulchral character. At any rate there is every reason to believe that its popularity as a burial place increased during the century or two after the departure of the Romans. From the evidence adduced in our description of the site there can be very little doubt that the inscribed stones of which we have record, and those which are preserved within Penmachno church (co. Carnarvon), and possibly that one which we have been so fortunate as to re-discover in the walls of the deserted church of Llandanwg (see p. 61) came originally from this place. Nor should the possibility that some of the inscriptions were in the peculiar Goidelic script known as Ogam be left out of account. At present the site exhibits not the slightest appearance of former importance, and its seeming bareness is in some measure an index of the loss which Welsh scholarship

has sustained by the neglect of past generations of antiquaries. The errors of the past should be retrieved so far as possible by a careful examination of the position conducted according to modern scientific methods.

**THE POST-ROMAN—PRE-NORMAN PERIOD.**—The years 500–1060 A.D. constitute the formative period of Welsh social, political and religious history, though like all periods of slow and silent growth it has left few traces whence we can estimate its rate of progress. The hill camps probably continued to be occupied both during the Roman period and for centuries after, whenever retirement to a defensive position was necessitated by an incursion from sea or land. It is impossible that the three centuries during which at least Mur Castell, and probably also Caer Gai and Cefn Caer, displayed a more or less active existence, could have passed away without impressing some lessons of military science upon the natives. But it does not appear that an altogether fresh form of camp was introduced, or that any important alterations or additions to the already existing camps of Merioneth were effected. In the construction of the small circular, single or multiple stone huts, which were the primitive tribal dwellings of the prehistoric period, it is possible perhaps to trace the influence of more advanced methods in the presence of the square or oblong forms which now become apparent.

The changes resulting from the introduction of Christianity, which, in the district with which we are dealing, did not occur probably much before the close of the sixth century, were doubtless considerable, especially in the direction of the construction of groups of small stone oratories; but the structures that arose through the labours of Cyngen, Cadwan, Trillo and others have disappeared without leaving behind a trace of their existence except in the sites and traditions that were remembered and honoured by succeeding generations.

The only remains of this period that have survived to our own day are a few inscribed or sculptured stones, of which that now preserved within the parish church of Towyn is of unique importance as bearing an inscription which is the earliest extant fragment of the Welsh tongue. We are fortunate in having obtained from our colleague Sir John Morris-Jones a special contribution dealing with the inscription and its interpretation. It may be too much to assume that the last word has been said upon this admittedly difficult subject, but the illustrations that we are able to present together with a facsimile of the sketch made by the celebrated Welsh antiquary, Edward Lhuyd, taken before the breaking of the stone, will doubtless be of service to scholars.

To the period of the real British Church is traceable the inscribed stone in Llanaber church (figs. 67 and 74A), and to a later stage in the same period belongs the very difficult but most interesting stone commemorative of St. Tecwyn (figs. 85 and 88).

A different class of sepulchral monument, and one having a distinct bearing upon the extent to which the early English (using the term in contradistinction to that of Welsh) Church may have influenced, and been influenced by, the Church of the Welsh is that of the cross-shaft which still stands erect in the churchyard of Corwen (figs. 18 and 49(4)). This type of cross-shaft is only found within that part of England which is known to have formed the Kingdom of Mercia, or so nearly within its borders as to have caught the influence of its peculiar culture. Fragments of such crosses have been found in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire and Cumberland. Two examples exist in Wales—the well-known cross of Eliseg at Llangollen, and that at Corwen described at page 19. For the purpose of showing the characteristic feature of this group of crosses, and the unmistakable relationship existing between them, we give illustrations of the famous cross at Gosforth (Cumberland) and the two shafts at Stapleford (Notts) and Fernilee Hall (Derbyshire), as well as of the Denbighshire example. Into the numberless points of conjecture which consideration of these crosses cannot fail to provoke, and upon which a volume might profitably be written, we do not think it to be our function to enter.

The interest of Corwen to the student of Welsh history and archaeology is not confined to the Mercian cross-shaft to which we have referred, and the questions that arise out of its study. There is evidence, not indeed of first-hand order, for the existence of another important memorial cross, perhaps of more than one such cross, at Corwen. The extremely slight indications point to its having been of a different character from that the shaft of which still stands in the churchyard, and it is more probable that it approached the rectangular form of the Anglian and Norse cross-shafts. It is unnecessary for us to emphasize the significance of the facts thus





FIG. 8. LLANDDWYWE IS Y GRAIG: CORSGEDOL (No. 200).



FIG. 9. LLANDDWYWE IS Y GRAIG: CORSGEDOL; gate-house (No. 200).



FIG. 10. LLANABER: EGRYN (No. 124).



FIG. 11. NEAR BALA.

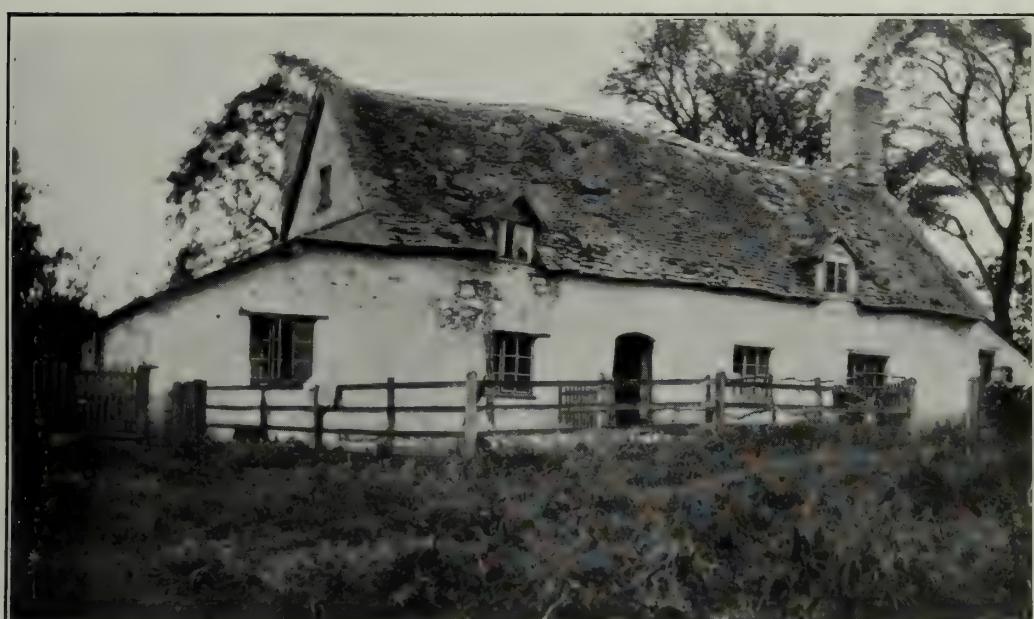


FIG. 12. PLAS UCHA, NEAR CORWEN (No. 399).



FIG. 13. NEAR DOLGELLY.

MERIONETHSHIRE COTTAGE ARCHITECTURE.



brought to light or to elaborate their far-reaching application to the history of Christianity in Wales during the pre-Norman period.

THE PERIOD OF THE WELSH PRINCES, A.D. 1066-1282.—The advent of the Normans in 1066, and their rapid conquest of England, were not altogether without influence upon the history and archaeology of Merionethshire; and the social and political effects of those events must have been felt within its area even before the submission of the Welsh to the first Edward. The valley of the Dee, though doubtless encumbered by woods, and rendered dangerous by floods, none the less afforded a natural and comparatively easy approach into the heart of Wales; and with the establishment of two great Norman lordships at Chester and Shrewsbury, administered upon the good old rule, the simple plan, it soon became evident that the peace of Merionethshire could not long be preserved. The personal presence of William Rufus at Tomen y Mur a few years before his death is asserted in the Welsh Life of Gruffydd ap Cynan as an unquestioned historical fact, and there is little doubt that the fine mound castle which stands within the Roman station was erected either by William or by his brother Henry. Difficulties arising out of physical conditions, together with the able defensive policy of Gruffydd's son, Owain (Gwynedd) removed the Norman menace from the Welsh chieftains of Merioneth, and prevented or delayed the transformation of Welsh commotes into feudal lordships.

As shedding some light upon a very dark period of Welsh history, the following brief extract from the records of an enquiry held in the year 1308 will be welcome to the antiquary as well as to the historian. The document is the Return to a writ addressed to Roger de Mortimer, justice of Wales, dated the 12th July, 2 Edward II.

Owen Goynith, sometime prince of all Wales, had several sons, among whom after his decease his land of Wales was divided according to ancient custom. One of them named Canaan [Cynan] had for his share the cantred of Merioneth, and the commotes of Ardudo [Ardudwy], Arvon, Uchcovey and Eviornith; he had two sons, Meredith and Griffith, who, after his decease, shared the said cantred and commotes; the said cantred being the share of the said Meredith, and the said commotes the share of the said Griffith. The said Meredith had two sons, Llewellyn vaur and Llewellyn vaughan, who after his decease divided the said cantred, the commote of Estimanner in the said cantred coming to the said Llewellyn vaur who first at his own expense built the manor of Estimanner because he had no mansion-house elsewhere in the said commote. He had four sons, Madoc, David, Meredith, and Llewellyn, who ought to have succeeded him, but immediately after his death Llewellyn ap Griffith, then prince of Wales, ejected the sons and seized the commote into his own hand, and assigned to the said Madoc and David certain small lands in Anglesey for their support, but nothing to the said Meredith and Llewellyn. Afterwards, prince Llewellyn once asked the men of the said commote of Estimanner to repair the fences and buildings of the said manor, which they did at his request. As often as the men of the said commote thought that the said prince would come to those parts they repaired the said fences and buildings at their own expense. The said prince held the said commote for 27 years before his death. The said service was placed in the extent of the lands of Wales after the conquest by the late King Edward, for maintenance of houses, fences and mills, 20s (*Pub. Rec. Office: Chancery Inquisitions, Miscellaneous, File 69 (19): Printed Calendar of Inquisitions, Miscellaneous, vol. ii, p. 14*).

A feature of considerable interest which the labours of our Inspector has brought into relief is the number of castles of the motte-and-bailey type which still exist, or have left traces of their presence, within the county of Merioneth. It would appear that the Welsh chieftains of Edeirnion and Ardudwy, not content with copying the external marks of power of the English barons and their knightly followers by the adoption of the motte form of *llys* and *castell*, advanced claims to the possession of the dignity and privileges of great English manorial lords, and doubtless pointed with firm conviction to their mound castles as evidence of their status. Entries of claims to be regarded as "barons" of Edeirnion and Ardudwy (and of Dinmael in the neighbouring county of Denbigh) appear frequently upon the public records of the 14th century, and wherever it is possible to locate the *capita* of these baronies, there a baronial castle-mound is almost certainly to be found. One of the best historically-authenticated examples is that of Hendwr (No. 228), where the base of the mound still remains, though perhaps the most powerful example was the barony of Rûg.\* Crogen is another interesting instance, where there is a well-preserved mound.

Not one of these castles appears at any time to have borne anything beyond a wooden structure upon its summit. The only stone castle of the county that can with perfect confidence be ascribed to the period prior to 1282 is that of Bere, for, as set forth at p. 138, we have seen no reason to place the construction of Castell Carn Dochau, or any part of it, at so early a date. Bere was built about half a

\* In the 12th—13th Henry VIII a woman, Lowry verch Tudur, is styled *una baronia de Edurnyon* (British Museum, Add. Ch. 7199).

century before Harlech ; its extreme remoteness, as well as its distance from Snowdonia, which was the storm centre of North Wales in the period 1260-1310, were probably the causes that led to its speedy desertion. As an example of the cultural influences operating upon the dominant class of the community about the middle of the 13th century, the presence of work of such high artistic merit on so considerable a scale in the wilds of the wildest part of Wales is a fact of much importance.

**ECCLESIASTICAL.**—The only Merionethshire churches that architecturally can be confidently asserted to fall within the period with which we are now concerned (A.D. 1066-1282) are those of Towyn, Llanaber, and the abbey (or, at least, the abbey-church) of Cymmer. It is of course certain that a few churches existed in places which had been the scenes of the labours of the early Cymric saints, such as Corwen and Llandrillo, but for the most part there exist at present no portions of those churches which can be ascribed to the period of their founders. It is possible that some of the churches were built prior, though not long prior, to the Edwardian settlement of the district, but the greater number are subsequent to that event, and probably owe their foundation on the lines which they still follow to the zeal of Archbishop Peckham and the policy of the first and second Edward. Artistically they are of little account, but their simplicity and plainness as well as their long unbroken tradition, impart to them an interest that is all their own. Much rebuilding, amounting to reconstruction, as at Llandderfel and Llanddwywe, took place in the 15th and early 16th centuries.

It is somewhat inexplicable that while in the *Taxatio* of A.D. 1291 not a single Merionethshire church is named, except that of Towyn, and those which are returned as appropriate to Cymmer Abbey, the earlier Return of 1253 gives Towyn, Llangelyn, Llanegryn (attached to Cymmer), Dolgelly, Llanfachreth, Pennal, Talyllyn or Mallwyd, and Llanfihangel (y Pennant).

As usual in Wales, the fonts, where these are really ancient, are found to be older than the churches within which they are placed, but not one of them can be regarded with certainty as being of the pre-Norman period.

Of interest to ecclesiastical archæologists will be the fine rood screen and loft at Llanegryn, the carved panels at Bettws Gwerfil Goch, and the object of medieval superstition in the wooden horse of Llandderfel.

**CHANGES IN THE COAST LINE.**—Without venturing to rush in upon the province of geology, or presuming to speculate upon the changes which have taken place in the coast line of the Principality from the Dee round to the Severn, it is perhaps incumbent upon us to set forth briefly the evidence that we have come across of the operation of such changes, as affording certain fresh points of view whence the archæologist may profitably contemplate the objects of his study.

We would draw attention to the interesting information upon the changes in the coastal line which brought about the curious contention of the crown administrators as to the true whereabouts of the Merionethshire Towyn in the sixteenth century (see the record printed at the foot of pp. 165-167). And as throwing light upon the changes which were ceaselessly but silently at work on the shores of the Dovey we append a hitherto unprinted document of the year 1639.

In the preceding year a Special Commission was issued out of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer to report upon the lands gained or "inned" from the sea along the coast of Wales ; to which the following reply (so far as it relates to the Merionethshire shore-line of the river Dovey) is given :—

**m. 1. Merioneth.**

Inquisition taken at Pennall in the county of Merioneth the 27th day of March, 14 Chas. I, before Rowland Pugh esq., Lewis Nanney esq., and Robert Vaughan gent. by virtue of the brief or commission by the oaths of Alban Thomas gent., Hugh Davies gent., David ap Owen David gent. David ap William Prehnald [ap Rheinallt] gent., Thomas Jones gent., Evan Owen Robert, Richard Tybotts, Edward John ap Hugh, Jenkin John ap Rhydderch, Evan Jenkin ap Owen, John Rhydderch, William ap Ieuan ap William, John Rees, David ap Howell, and Hugh ap Edward who upon their oaths say as follows :—

1. One parcel of meadow ground containing by common estimation 30 days math of hay and situate lying within the parish of Towyn, upon the banks of the river of Dyvi, and commonly called by the name of *Yr ystym llwyd*, where the salt and fresh waters meet together is overflowed with high tides in stormy weather, and some part of it with ordinary tides ; but how much in the certainty they do not express. But they say that every acre thereof is worth 2s per annum.





FIG. 14. LLANGELYNIN (No. 420).



FIG. 15. LLANDDWYWE IS Y GRAIG, A.D. 1593 (No. 201).



FIG. 16. LLANGAR (No. 400).

MERIONETHSHIRE CHURCHES.



FIG. 17. LLANTYSILIO YN IÂL  
(co. Denbigh).



FIG. 18. CORWEN (No. 43).



FIG. 20. FERNILEE HALL,  
(co. Derby).



FIG. 19. GOSFORTH  
(co. Cumberland).



FIG. 21. STAPLEFORD  
(co. Notts).

PRE-NORMAN CROSSES.



Item, that of the said parcel of meadow ground in ten parts equally divided, Sir James Pryse Kt. and his under tenants hold five parts in ten, and one Thomas Lewis gent. and his under tenants hold four parts in ten.

Item, that the premises being enclosed out of a certain waste called Morva Polion rhwydey are claimed by several grants made to Robert, late earl of Leicester in the 18th, 19th, and 20th years of the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth by letters patent from her majesty, and his estate by mesne assurances derived to the said Sir James Pryse Kt., John Price, Lewis Prichard, and Thomas Lewis.

Item, and further the said jurors upon their oath do say and present that one parcel of waste marsh land called Yr ystym las lying in Penmaen Dyvi aforesaid is about three times in every year overflowed with the ordinary tide of salt water, and oftener if there happen a storm or wind to force up the tide.

Item, and likewise that there is another parcel of pasture, moor and marsh land near adjoining to the premises situate and lying in Penmaen aforesaid, between a ditch or gutter called Ifos Kemlyn on the east, and a place called Camlas vawr on the west, Ynys y Penmaen on the north, and the river of Dyvy on the south, containing by estimation 100 acres lying in Penmaen aforesaid between the lands of the said John Price Lewis Richard on the north, the river of Dyvy on the south, Ystym llwyd aforesaid and Weirglodd vawr on the east, and Morva polion rhwydey aforesaid on the west, both which parcels are three times in a year overflowed with ordinary tides of salt water and often when storms or wind do force up the tide ; and that the said parcels were found by inquisition taken at Towyn aforesaid the 1st day of October, 12 James [I], before John Hughes esq., escheator of the said county, and Edward Pugh gent., by virtue of a commission out of his majesty's Court of Exchequer at Westminster, by the oaths of Owen Griffith and others that Sir James Pryse, Kt., Edward Price gent., Lewis Prichard and Thomas Lewis gents. the 20th March last past before the said inquisition taken, had enclosed and encroached the said parcels of pasture, moor, and marsh land, containing 100 acres out of the common or waste ground called Morva Penmaen or Morva Dyvi, and the said 12 acres in Penmaen aforesaid out of the common there called Morva Polion Rhwydey aforesaid; and that the said premises are held by the same Sir James Pryse Kt., John Price, Lewis Prichard, Thomas Lewis, by force of several leases and grants from his late majesty and the King's Majesty that now is, to several persons ; and from them to the said Sir James Pryse Kt., John Price, Lewis Prichard, and Thomas Lewis, by mesne assignments and assurances derived. And they say that every acre thereof is worth per annum 1d.

Item, that upon tempestuous and stormy weather, especially upon the west wind, the salt water overflows a certain piece of meadow ground (lying beneath Gogarth) within the parish of Towyn, called Y Parke mawr, containing eight days math of hay, whereof Francis Herbert esq. is owner ; and say that every acre thereof is worth per annum 18d.

Item, that certain other parcels of meadow ground called Gwergloddie Gogarth, whereof Lewis Hughes gent., is owner, are sometimes overflowed with the salt water, especially upon the west wind ; and particularly one parcel of meadow ground there called Gweirglodd pant idol [Eidal] containing six days math of hay, and certain commons or marsh ground there adjoining ; and that every acre thereof is worth per annum 18d.

Item, that certain other parcels of the lands lying by the sea shore between Gogarth and Aberdovey are sometimes also overflowed with salt water.

Item, that the tide doth often overflow divers parcels of the common marsh lands called Morva Towyn lying between the churchyard of Towyn and the river of Dysynnig northwards to the quantity of ten acres commonly called Marrianne [Marian] Towyn ; and that there are other small pieces up and down the said marsh upon high spring tides especially when the river of Dyssynny is flooded, and the fresh and salt water meeting, that are covered with water, and overflowed, but the certain number of acres they do not express nor estimate because they lie in scattered parcels ; and that every acre thereof is worth per annum [left blank]. And that all the said premises and marsh lands are used in common by all the inhabitants of Vaynol Towyn.

\*Item, that there are some other pieces of marsh lands adjoining to a "connygreen" [conigre, a rabbit warren] there, to the quantity of about eight acres, are sometimes overflowed with the salt water.

Item, that the tops of the rushes growing upon the said marsh land are to be seen upon high floods (Pub. Rec. Office : Exchequer Special Commissions, Merioneth ; No. 5855).

**THE GROWTH OF POPULATION.**—What we may be permitted to call the archæology of social economics is probably as important as that of historical archæology, and any evidence of its development that can be produced, though such facts may be considered to be "ancient monuments" only by a wide stretch of courtesy, we trust will not be found altogether outside the limits of our own particular enquiry. The special attention devoted to accurate statistics of the increase of population betokens the importance with which the subject is now regarded ; but figures for past periods though diligently sought, are seldom met with. In the course of the collection of much documentary evidence relating to the topography of the county of Merioneth valuable light on the extent and spread of the population of the greater part thereof was obtained from returns furnished by the bishops in the year 1563 (*British Museum : Harley 594*). For the sake of comparison we add the figures for 1801 (the first official returns) and 1901.

\* This paragraph has been struck through.

## In the Deanery of Ardudwy, Estumaner and Talybont.

	1563. Households.	1801. Persons, male and female.	1901. Persons, male and female.
Llanaber ...	60	1463	{ 702
Llanenddwyn ...	60	567	2214 Barmouth.
Llanddwywe ...	30	308	671
Llandanwg ...	27	461	{ 248 Is y Graig.
Llanbedr ...	23	319	104 Uwch y Graig.
Llandecwyn ...	32	387	295
Llanfihangel y traethau. }	30	669	{ 2142 Penrhyn.
Llanfair ...	32	369	628 Talsarnau.
Festiniog ...	50	732	386
Maentwrog ...	40	593	11435
Trawsfynydd ...	70	1234	775
Llanfrothen ...	40	646	1595
Towyn ...	200	2092	924
Penall ...	56	554	3756
Talylllyn ...	50	633	510
Llanfihangel ...	32	366	1586
Llanelltyd ...	38	398	613
Llangelyn ...	60	754	424
Dolgelly ...	140	2949	1073
Llanfachreth ...	76	1069	{ 2437
Llanegryn ...	60	623	1332 Brithdir.
			769
			582

Finally we append a brief document of great interest, which adds to the illustration of both the subjects with which we have been dealing. It is of the year 1565, and is drawn from the State Papers of Elizabeth's reign.

(endorsed). A certificate about the havens and creeks of the county of Merioneth.

(addressed). To the right honorable the queen's majesty's most honorable privy Council.

Right honourable. Our most bounden duties most humbly remembered. Whereas we have received the queen's majesty's most honorable letters of commission under her grace's great seal of England to us addressed, with certain articles of instruction to the same annexed, commanding us by virtue and authority thereof to appoint as our deputies for the execution thereof such and so many honest, discreet, and trusty persons dwelling within or near any of the ports, havens, creeks, or landing places within the county of Merioneth, as unto us should seem necessary for that purpose; and that we should swear them on the holy evangelist to execute their charge truly: These shall be to advertise your honors that according to our most bounden duties, as by the said commission we were commanded, [we] have not only repaired and viewed all the ports, havens, creeks, and landing places within the said county; but also have deputed and sworn the persons subscribed to be our deputies within the said several ports, havens, creeks, and landing places as hereafter particularly ensueth; which are all the ports, havens, creeks and landing places within the said county of Merioneth. And thus resting at your honorable lordships' further commandments, we commit your lordships to the tuition of the Almighty, who ever preserve your honorable lordships long in health, with the increase of honor. Dated at Bala the last day of December, 1565. Your honorable lordships at commandment, OWEN VAUGHAN, JOHN SALSBURY, JOHN OWEN, GRUFF. GLYN.

DEVYE [Dyfi], being a haven and having no habitation but only three houses whereunto there is no resort, save only in the time of herring fishing, at which time of fishing there is a wonderful great resort of fishers assembled from all places within the realm, with ships, boats, and vessels; and during their abiding there, there is of the said company there assembled one chosen among themselves to be their admiral. And there is neither ship nor vessel that belongeth to the same haven otherwise than aforesaid; whereof we have deputed David ap Thomas ap Ratherch and Thomas ap Humffrey, being the substantiallest and nearest to the same haven.

DESSYNNY [Dysynni], being a creek having no habitation nor resort, and there is neither ship, vessel, or boat that belongeth thereunto; whereof we have deputed Lewys Gethyn and John ap Gruff. ap Harry, being likewise the nearest and substantiallest inhabitants to the same creek.

BERMOWE, being likewise a haven having no habitation but only four houses, whereof there are owners Rees ap Rees, Harry ap Eden, Thomas ap Edward, and John ap Hoell goch. And there is neither ship nor vessel that belongeth to the same haven, but only two little boats that the said Rees ap Rees Harry ap Eden do use to carry men over the passage; whereof we have deputed Moryce ap Ho'll Bedo and Eden' ap Hoell ap Gruff.'

ARTRO, being a creek having no habitation nor resort. And there is neither ship, vessel, or boat that belongeth thereunto; whereof we have deputed Richard Owen, gentleman.

Y TRAETH MAWRE, being a haven, having no habitation nor resort. And there is likewise neither ship, vessel, or boat that belongeth to the same; whereof we have deputed Humffrey ap Owen and William ap Robert ap Ieuan ap Eign[ion].

(endorsed) alto. December, 1565. The commission for the ports in the county of Merioneth to the Council. (Pub. Rec. Office: State Papers, Domestic; Elizabeth. Vol. 38, No. 30.)





FIG. 22. LLANEGRYN (No. 253).



FIG. 23. TOWYN (No. 538).

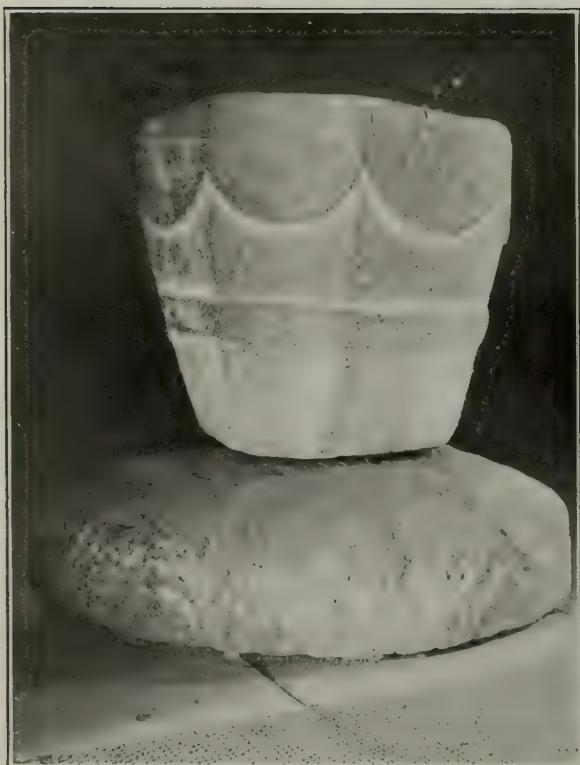


FIG. 24. LLANYMAWDDWY (No. 483).



FIG. 25. LLANABER (No. 125).

MERIONETHSHIRE CHURCH FONTS.



FIG. 26. LLANABER (No. 125).



FIG. 27. LLANDANWG (No. 164).

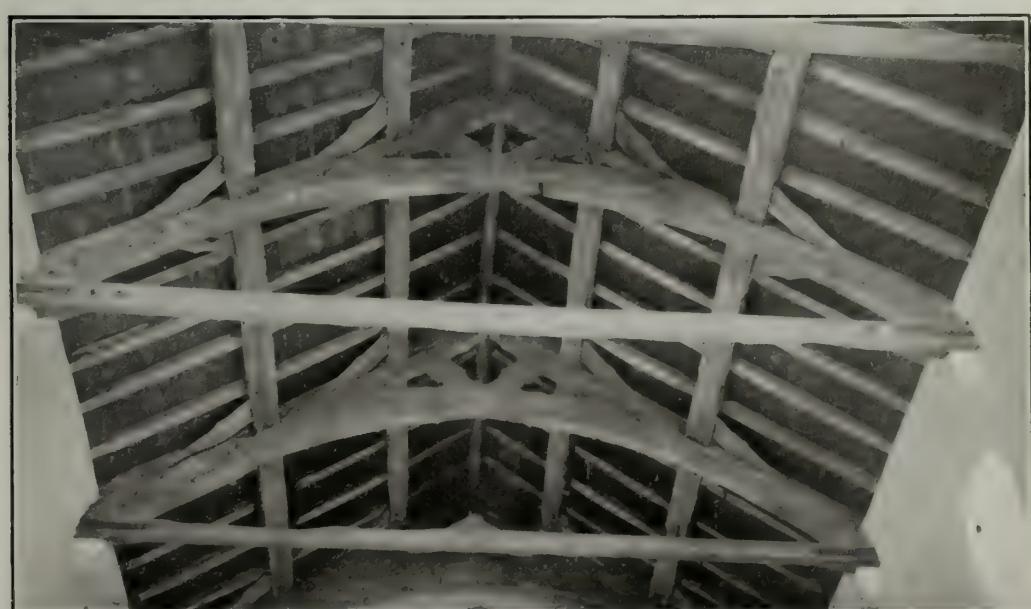


FIG. 28. TOWYN (No. 538).



**FINDS.**—The archæological finds in Merionethshire are of considerable importance. They comprise two gold torcs (Nos. 33 and 171E) and a magnificent bronze shield (No. 171C). These with others of the Late Celtic cultural period, taken in connection with the striking absence of objects of earlier ages, afford eloquent testimony to the very late character of Merionethshire prehistoric civilization. The medieval objects include the beautiful chalice and paten discovered near Dolgelly (No. 137) which were secured to the National Museum of Wales by the concurrent efforts of the late Chairman of this Commission (Sir John Rhys), and Mr. Llewelyn Williams, K.C., then Member of Parliament for the Carmarthen Boroughs.

The issue of the present volume has been delayed by many untoward occurrences, the principal of which was, of course, the great war. The initial inspection of the monuments of the county, which was conducted by the late Mr. A. Neobard Palmer with his recognised ability and thoroughness, had not been quite completed when the field-work of the Commission was entirely suspended soon after the outbreak of the war. The lamented death of Mr. Palmer followed in March, 1915, and owing to this unlooked for catastrophe the accounts of many of the monuments have not received the advantage of revision at the hand of him who alone possessed personal knowledge of them all. The illustrations, as well those of the pencil as of the camera, with the exception of the blocks and photographs which have been lent to the Commissioners and are acknowledged below, are by Mr. Ivor Mervyn Pritchard, A.R.I.B.A. ; and the general editorship has been undertaken (as in the case of all the Commission's previous volumes) by our Secretary. We ourselves paid personal visits to some of the most important monuments of the county, in the course of which we received much attention and courtesy. We desire to express our special indebtedness to Mr. H. Haydn Jones, the Member of Parliament for Merionethshire, for much willingly rendered assistance. Our thanks are also due to the Trustees of the British Museum, through Sir C. Hercules Read, P.S.A., for photographs of figs. 150 and 151 ; the authorities of the Ashmolean Museum through E. Thurlow Leeds, Esq., F.S.A., for the photograph of fig. 32 ; the Director of the National Library of Wales, John Ballinger, Esq., M.A., for photographs of figs. 131 and 141 ; the Director of the National Museum of Wales, W. Evans Hoyle, Esq., D.Sc., for photographs of fig. 69 ; the Cambrian Archæological Association for the loan of blocks ; the Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society for permission to reproduce fig. 20 from the Society's Journal ; the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland for permission to reproduce fig. 56 i and ii ; the Victoria Public Institute, Worcester, for permission to photograph and reproduce the sketches of the late Mr. H. H. Lynes ; Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., for permission to photograph fig. 33 ; Mrs. Wynne for permission to photograph several objects at Penarth ; Mr. T. Arthur Acton, F.S.A., Mr. T. E. Morris, L.L.M., Mr. R. J. Morris, Gwrachynys, Mr. Harold H. Hughes, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., Bangor, Mr. A. J. Hewins, Barmouth, and his sons, the Rev. G. S. Hewins, and Captain Hewins, R.W.F., Mr. J. E. Griffith, B.Sc., Dolgelly, and the Rev. D. R. Pugh, vicar of Towyn, for varied help, always courteously rendered.

Mr. Thomas Wright, Nottingham, for the photograph of fig. 21.

E. VINCENT EVANS (*Chairman*).  
 R. C. BOSANQUET.  
 J. A. BRADNEY.  
 ROBERT HUGHES.  
 G. HARTWELL JONES.  
 W. E. LLEWELLYN MORGAN.  
 J. MORRIS-JONES.  
 EDWARD OWEN (*Secretary*).

28th May, 1921.





FIG. 29. SPEED'S MAP OF MERIONETHSHIRE.



## COUNTY OF MERIONETH.

### Parish of BALA.

#### DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (CASTLE MOUNTS, WITH ENCLOSURES).

1. *Tomen y Bala* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 40''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 35' 39''$ ).

About the centre of the small corporate town of Bala is a large artificial mound which is a quite unmistakable example of the class of Norman mottes. The antiquary Edward Lhuyd, writing about the year 1698, states that the mound was then surrounded by a ditch, and at a still earlier period it had doubtless a bailey attached to it. The growth of the town has swept away those features, and the mound is now confined within a stone wall and thickset hedge, and its slopes are planted with trees.

It makes but a single appearance in Welsh national history, namely in 1202, when the Brut y Tywysogion (Rolls Ed. p. 258) records its destruction by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth. The commot of Penllyn, within which the mound castle stood, was then part of the province of Powys. The wooden fortalice crowning the mound was destroyed, and probably never replaced, for no subsequent mention is made of the site as the head of a manor.—Visited, 15th May, 1915.

NOTE.—It appears that the mound was dug into in the year 1745. This is stated in a letter of the Rev. George Griffiths, rector of the parish of Llanycil in that year, written to the Rev. Charles Lyttelton, then dean of Exeter (British Museum, *Stowe MSS.*, 753, f. 57), in which the writer says:—"I have begun my search in Tommen y Bala, and am gone above 2 yards into it; found nothing as yet, but am determined to go further to oblige you, good sir." A few months later Mr. William Price of Rhiwlas, writing to the same gentleman, observes:—"As to ye Tommen Mr. Griffiths has begun mining in it, but I am convinced will find nothing in it except some ashes. However, he is very intent upon it, and tells me he will work himself at it." (*ib.*, f. 63.)

#### DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

2. *The Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.E.; Ded: Christ Church. Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Montgomery; rural deanery of Penllyn).

As a borough Bala formerly stood within the parish of Llanycil, and ecclesiastically it still remains subordinate to that parish, though it now constitutes an independent civil parish. There was a chapel, with annexed graveyard, within the borough, but it would seem that the building had entirely disappeared by the time of Edward Lhuyd (c. 1698). The site of the little edifice is said to have been near (*ar gyfer*) the town cross. The graveyard, which was much used by Nonconformists, was sold and the ground built over.

The present church is a modern building.

#### DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

3. *The Borough of Bala.* The foundation of a small commercial centre at the northern end of the "llyn" or lake (as the fine sheet of water now usually styled by the Welsh Llyn Tegid, and by the English Bala Lake, was known) was probably the work of Edward II, doubtless in consonance with and continuance of the policy of forming small communities and endowing them with wide mercantile and municipal privileges, which had been initiated by his father.

The district immediately around the castle mound, which may still have retained indications of the incendiaryism of Llewelyn, was marked out into burgages that were occupied by a colony of English immigrants, leavened with a sprinkling

**Parish of BALA.**

of Welsh. The burgages do not, however, seem to have been planted with the usual Edwardian regularity, for the Bala of to-day shows few external signs of a medieval burghal settlement. Nor does the borough seem to have been surrounded by a stone wall or stout earthen bank, though a slight defence was necessary from the wild animals that roamed through the valley of the Dee. The history of the small municipality has not been worked out.

NOTE.—The only authentic information about the establishment of the borough of Bala is contained in Dr. E. A. Lewis' *Medieval Boroughs of Snowdonia*. He observes (p. 55) : "The town of Bala was founded by Roger de Mortimer, the Justiciar of North Wales, about 1310. Fifty-three burgages were measured out early in this year, thirty-four on the royal demesne of Penllyn, and nineteen on freehold lands there. Only forty-four of these plots were built upon in the following year, nine remaining vacant. The markets and fairs previously held at Llanvawr, and producing the annual profit of £10, were removed hither in the same year." The first charter to the town constituting it a free borough was granted by Edward II in 1324. Dr. Lewis adds (p. 199) :— "The inhabitants of medieval Bala were few. They were chiefly occupied in agricultural and pastoral pursuits. Some of the townsmen concurrently farmed the grinding mills of Pennaran and Bala. The latter mill was entirely destroyed by a storm towards the end of the fourteenth century (circa 17-19 Richard II). It next appears in the reign of Henry V, producing a yearly rental of £4. It continued to realise this amount until 1446, when one Meredith ap Hoell ap Tudor farmed the issues at 11s. 8d. . . . The mill is described in 1532 as being in decay for many years past. One looks in vain for the early origins of the knitting and woollen industry for which the town became famous during the sixteenth and following centuries. The medieval town, like its prototype, furnished the central mart for the district of Penllyn. Markets were held every Saturday, and very successful fairs were kept in the early May and late June of each year. The district surrounding the borough consisted chiefly of pastoral lands. Cattle, sheep, cheese, and butter were the prime productions. It was from the tolls issuing from the sale of these articles that the burgesses made the most considerable portion of their fee-farm. Bala was one of the foremost marts in North Wales. It paid more to the Crown in respect of commercial tolls than it did for rents of land. When Henry VII generously remitted the payment of tolls to his North Welsh subjects, the burgesses of Bala represented to the King that the bulk of their farm was made up of tolls, stallage, and other customs taken from persons trading there. They were subsequently pardoned more than half their usual farm in respect of the concession. As far as the general condition of the borough is concerned, Bala exhibits the same symptoms of decay during the period intervening between the reigns of Henry V and Richard III as Nevin ; it likewise presents similar indications of success as does Pwllheli during the Tudor period."

In the third volume of *Ancient Deeds* (Pub. Rec. Office) are calendared a number of minor documents, conveyances of land and the like, dated mainly in the 15th century, which contain names both of persons and places of great importance to the local historian.

**The Town Cross.** The cross stood on a spot, still so called, opposite the White Lion Hotel. It was elevated upon three steps, and served as the shaft of a dial. It was removed about sixty years ago, and no remains of it are now known to exist.

**DIVISION VII (FINDS).**

**4. Flints.** A considerable number of flints was discovered from time to time by the late Rev. John Peter (Ioan Pedr), a cultured Nonconformist minister, during his long residence in the town of Bala. So far as we have been able to ascertain Mr. Peter left no written account of his discoveries, and the only notice of them appears to be the following by the late Mr. Thomas Ruddy of Llandderfel in *Byegones* for 12th October, 1898 (n.s. vol. 5, p. 492)— "Professor John Peter first called my attention to them [the presence of flints at Bala] : he found several at Ro wen, which is at the North-east end of Bala Lake : I have at present over thirty specimens of what are commonly known as flint flakes, several cores from which flakes were chipped, two or three specimens of scrapers, a very good little flint knife, and two curious specimens which I consider to be sling stones. The flints are chiefly to be found in the gravel which storms cast out from the bottom of the lake. Owing to this, Professor John Peter was of opinion that there were lake dwellings at the north-east of the lake, where the water is rather shallow. I am of the same opinion, and I think there were also lake dwellings near the upper end of the lake, because I have picked up a few flakes in the gravel cast out from the lake near the Flag Station at Llangower, and I have found one near the Glanllyn side. I have found two small flakes in the river gravel at Llandderfel ; these were evidently carried from Bala Lake either by floods or ice blocks. . . . The flint knife is a very perfect specimen : I found it at Ro wen." The Rev. John Peter died at Bala in 1877, and Mr. Thomas Ruddy in 1912. It is possible that the flints found in the neighbourhood have not been formed artificially ; and no other evidence for the suggestion that an early lacustrine settlement existed in any part of Bala lake is forthcoming. Mr. Ruddy's collection is now in the possession of his son, the Rev. H. E. Ruddy, M.A., of Manchester.

## Parish of BARMOUTH.

### DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION H (ANCIENT VILLAGE SITES).

4c. *Hut Circles* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 16''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 18''$ ).

About 200 yards east of the small farm called 'Hafotty' are several small circular stone enclosures, the remains of hut dwellings which are locally called 'Cyttiau Gwyddelod,' 'the Irishmen's' or 'woodmen's huts.' They are in too ruinous and fragmentary a condition to admit of particular description, and their precise purpose has not been satisfactorily established; the name of the farm suggests an agricultural origin.

### DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

5. *Ty Gwyn, Bermo*, 'the white house at the bar mouth' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 9''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 2''$ ).

On Barmouth quay stands a small building the earliest portion of which is possibly of the late 16th or early 17th century. The walls are 18 inches thick; the doorway is slightly pointed. There are several closed window orifices, and a fireplace which may be an insertion. An upper storey, as well as a lean-to addition, are of much later date. The building is traditionally said to have been erected by one of the Vaughans of Corsygedol in connection with an anticipated landing of the earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII, at this spot; but it does not appear to be sufficiently ancient for that purpose, and it is more probable that it was built for a small block or custom house for craft navigating the Mawddach.—Visited, 18th May, 1914.

### DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

6. *Y Garn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 36''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 52''$ ).

This is a site thus named in the Tithe Schedule of Llanaber (No. 626), doubtless from the former presence of a cairn upon it, but there is at present no indication of such an antiquity.—Visited, 14th October, 1913.

7. *Hendre mynach* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 48''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 37''$ ).

This name proclaims the original residence which it designated to have been a very ancient one, but the house thus styled at the present day is modern. Close around are Bryn mynach, Ty mynach, Craig mynach and Cil mynach, all betokening the former possessors of the surrounding land to have been a monastic establishment, probably the Cistercian abbey of Cymmer about ten miles distant. Hendre mynach may have been one of the granges of the Abbey.

7A. *Dinas Oleu* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 20''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 48''$ ).

The portion of the mountain immediately at the back of the town of Barmouth is known as Dinas Oleu, 'the glittering' or 'sparkling dinas.' The westernmost end is now held by the National Trust as an open space; it is of no antiquarian interest. A smaller height to the south-east of the main eminence, about sixty yards south of the old mountain road past Gorllwyn Fawr farm to Barmouth, has some appearances of having been surrounded by a stone wall, of which a few remains exist here and there. At one or two places are signs of the rough coursing of the stones. The enclosure (if ever there was one) appears to have been oval in shape, and would measure about 200 feet by 150 feet, the longer axis being east and west. The site affords a wide outlook over Cardigan Bay. The name Dinas Oleu suggests the archæological character of the position, but it is by no means certain that this

**Parish of BARMOUTH.**

name is ancient. It does not appear on the original 1 inch Ordnance sheet, nor is anything in the nature of a fortified enclosure to be seen beyond the stone wall already noticed ; neither is there any traditional or recorded evidence of the existence of an early camp on the spot.

**DIVISION VII (FINDS).**

7B. *Stone Celt.* A greenstone celt from Bwlchgwyn, Barmouth, is mentioned in the *Calendar* of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, for the year 1884-85, as being then in the College Museum. It is believed to have perished in the destructive fire of 1885.

7C. *Bronze Ewer and Bronze Skillet.* On 7th February, 1901, there was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries of London (*Proc. S.A.*, xviii, 250, with illustration) a bronze pot which had been found a short time previously on a rubbish heap at Barmouth. The following description is given of the article : "The pot, which is globular in form, is  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter at the top, and has round the middle a cast-work band  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch wide ornamented in relief with pairs of birds and beasts. Above this three rude fleurs-de-lis are cast upon the body. On one side is a straight handle, which is strengthened by a loop beneath its junction with the body, and ornamented on its upper surface by a band of the same pattern as that on the pot. The pot once rested on three stout legs, but all have been broken, and the shortest remaining has a line cut round as if the intention were to get rid of all three stumps. The pot is in poor condition with many flaws and blisters. It seems to date from the latter part of the 13th century." Its present location is unknown.

The Report of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, for 1905 acknowledges the gift of "a bronze bowl of very thin fabric, found in the marsh near the sea at Barmouth, Wales," of which by the courtesy of the authorities an illustration is given (fig. 32). The donor, Sir Arthur Evans, comments on it as follows :—"This relic is of interest as being of the pre-Roman class, either imported from Italy or of 'Late-Celtic' fabric."

NOTE.—It is evident from the description of the exhibit to the Society of Antiquaries that this is an entirely different object from that in the Ashmolean Museum ; and while it is not impossible that both might have come to notice at Barmouth at or near the same place and time, enquiries there have failed to bring to recollection the memory of the discovery of more than one bronze object of the pot or bowl class. It appears probable that in the course of their migrations an error may have been made in the attribution of one or other of the articles to Barmouth. The case for each is strengthened by the discovery of similar objects in near proximity to Barmouth : the Late-Celtic bowl by two of identical character found in 1867 at Ynys Gwrtheyrn, parish of Llanenddwyn (see No. 305), and now at Peniarth ; the mediæval bronze pot by a find of similar bronze objects some five miles east of Llanbedr which are described and illustrated in *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, 1919, xxxi, 214.

[Illustrated (bronze bowl), fig. 32.]

**Parish of BETTWYS GWERFIL GOCH.****DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).**

8. A note in Mr. Edward Lhuyd's *Parochialia* (ii, 75) runs as follows in the Cambrian Archaeological Association's edition of that scholar's topographical papers :— "Y krig Viryn where there is a tumulus (and a circle of stones)." The place referred to is doubtless the small height (and farm of same name) usually known as Pen-y-crug. There is no tumulus or stone circle now in the vicinity of the farmstead, but the objects referred to probably stood in a hollow between the low hills of Derwydd mawr, south-east of Graig ddu quarry, where are the ruins of what appears to have been a fine stone mound. The present indications are those of a double circle, one within the other, but from the quantity of smaller stones embedded in

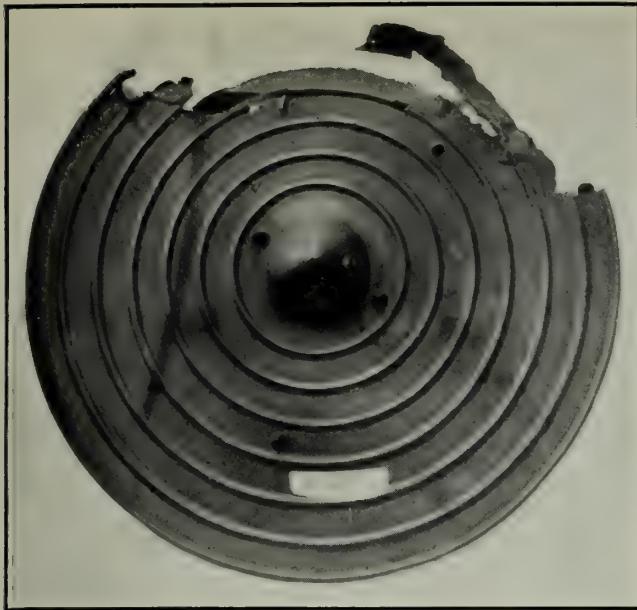


FIG. 30.



FIG. 31.



FIG. 32.



FIG. 33



FIG. 34.

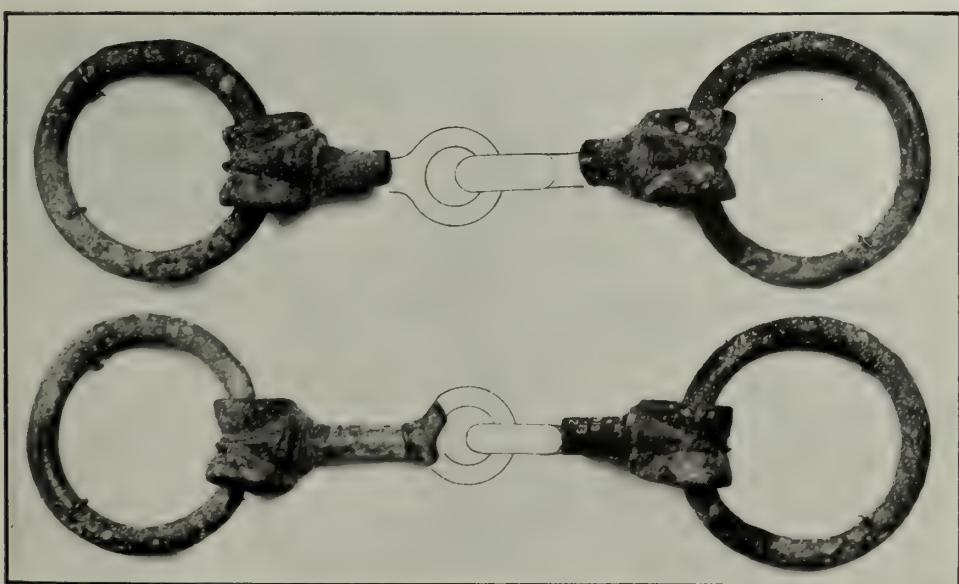


FIG. 68.

#### BRONZE OBJECTS DISCOVERED IN MERIONETHSHIRE.

FIG. 30. LLANDANWG: BRONZE BUCKLER; front (No. 171c).  
,, 31. Ditto Ditto ; back.  
,, 32. BARMOUTH: BRONZE BOWL (No. 7c).

FIG. 33. LLANENDDWYN: BRONZE BOWLS (No. 305).  
,, 34. Ditto : BRONZE SKILLETS (No. 305).  
,, 68. LLANABER: BRONZE BRIDLE BITS (No. 136b).



## Parish of BETTWS GWERFIL GOCH.

the turf and scattered between the more clearly marked circles it would appear that the stones of the circles are boulders which may have formed the circumference and base of a large cairn. The diameter of the cairn was about 56 feet, but the circle is by no means complete, and it is probable that when the superstructure was removed a number of the foundation stones were also uprooted. The stones now visible average about 15 inches high. The entire remains have been so disturbed that further measurements would be valueless.—Visited, 17th October, 1914.

Lhuyd has another note:—“Qy. at Orsedd concerning a wedge, found at Krig Viryn, etc,” which seems to be a memorandum to enquire at the farmstead of Yr Orsedd concerning some antiquity (probably a stone celt or bronze palstave) which he had been informed had been found at (or on) Crugfryn, possibly at the disturbance of the cairn. This was about 1698, and needless to say nothing is now known of any such find.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

9. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 N.E.). Ded: The Virgin Mary (the Assumption of); archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural-deanery of Edeirnion; township of Pencraig.

This is a small edifice consisting of nave, chancel, south porch, and small spire above the western gable; a vestry opening from the north side of the chancel was added at a recent restoration. The walls have been practically rebuilt on the lines of the original foundations. The chancel is slightly wider internally than the nave. There was originally no structural division between nave and chancel, but this was effected at a recent rebuilding by the erection of two dwarf walls of rough masonry. All the windows are modern except one square-headed opening in the nave. The roof is for the most part original, the timbering being of simply moulded and curved cross beams, with bracings to the principals; the chancel has a wall-plate with carved cornice, and the centre of each of the cross beams has on its under side a boss in the style of a rose. One of the trusses bears the date 1606.

A reredos has been formed out of a series of panels which are said to have been affixed to the altar or rood screen of the pre-Reformation church, and at a later date to have been attached to the front of a western gallery. The panels are now arranged: in the centre the Crucifixion, on either side St. John and the Virgin, outside of the latter on either side the emblems of the Passion. This arrangement is modern, and was doubtless dictated by the desire of having the panel of the Crucifixion as the centre piece. The panels of the Virgin and St. John have been wrongly placed on each side of the central panel whereby they look away from instead of towards the figure of the Saviour. The latter is not represented as extended upon the cross, but the head with its broad nimbus occupies the whole of the space in front of the intersecting cross-arms which pass behind the figure. The upper portion of the Saviour's body is covered with a thick cape reaching below the elbows, and beneath is a long garment which appears to be gathered up on one side and to fall over the legs in wide folds; but the lower part of the panel is too worn to admit of certainty as to the details. The side figures are dressed in the costume of the latter half of the 15th century, and there is no doubt that the whole constitutes a work of that period. The two outermost panels bear the usual emblems of the Crucifixion; they are more rudely carved than the figure panels, and may be of slightly later date.\* The font

\* Mr. M. H. Bloxam, in his *Principles of Gothic Eccl. Architecture* (ii, 42), refers to the reredos at Bettws Gwerfil Goch in the following terms:—“Of the rood-loft images, out of the general destruction by authority in the reigns of Edward the Sixth and Elizabeth, I know of one set only which has escaped. This is in the little church of Bettws Gwerfil Goch [sic] near Corwen, North Wales, where the image of the crucifix, of St. Mary, and St. John, rudely carved on a wooden panel in low relief, and formerly affixed to, or in front of the rood-loft, are still preserved and placed as a reredos over the holy table. The panel, four feet and three-and-a-half inches wide, by two feet and three inches in height, is divided into five compartments, each from seven-and-a-half to eight inches wide. The central compartment contains a rude representation, in low relief, of the crucifix, the figure of which is very indistinct; on the sides of the head of the cross are the words ‘Ecce Homo’; on the compartment on the one side next to the crucifix, rudely carved in low relief, is the figure of the Blessed Virgin, in a veiled head-dress, a nimbus over the head, and the hands folded on the breast; by her side, in the outward compartment, are represented the pincers, thorns, and nails. In the compartment on the other side of the crucifix, St. John is represented holding his right hand to his head, and in the compartment beyond this are carved the hammer, the reed with hyssop, like a club and spear. The whole is a specimen of very rude carved work of the fifteenth, or early part of the sixteenth, century.”

## Parish of BETTWS GWERFIL GOCH.

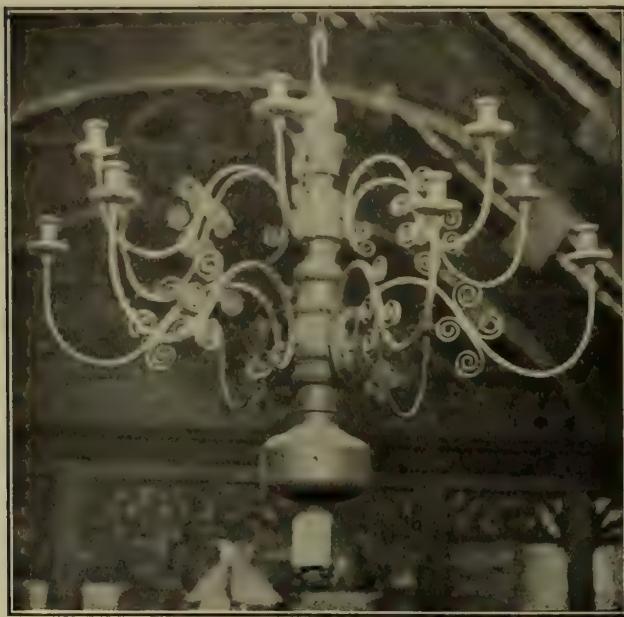


Fig. 36.

Glynne, 'Notes' *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 268; Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph* (ed. 1911), ii, 36.

[Illustrated, fig. 35.]

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

10. *St. Mary's Well* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 N.E. ; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 27''$ ).

Edward Lhuyd says that "Ffynnon y saint" was a stone's throw from the church, and Lewis (*Top. Dict. Wales*) mentions "St. Mary's Well." About 100 yards from the church is a meadow called 'Gwerglodd y Saint,' 'the Saint's Meadow,' towards the middle of which is a spring of water. In reply to enquiries it was stated that a spring was remembered at a different point in the same meadow, but that it gradually silted up and finally was covered over, when the water broke out at the present spot. The name of the well is not now remembered.—Visited, 29th July, 1913.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

11. *Cae'r Carnedd* (6 in. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 N.E. ; lat.  $53^{\circ} 1' 4''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 35''$ ).

In this field once stood a house called 'Tyn y Carnedd,' of which no traces remain. There is no carnedd about, but a slight elevation near the middle of the field may represent its site. Two other elevations are composed of rock. Tithe Schedule, No. 341a.—Visited, 14th October, 1914.

12. *Yr Orsedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 N.W. ; lat.  $53^{\circ} 1' 44''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 28' 3''$ ).

This interesting place-name must represent some natural or artificial antiquity, but of the various natural rocky elevations lying around the ruined farmhouse that bore the name of 'Yr Orsedd' not one seems to possess any special feature that marks it out for a gorsedd or meeting place.—Visited, 15th October, 1914.

13. *Bryn yr Eryr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 N.W. ; lat.  $53^{\circ} 1' 55''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 28' 54''$ ).

Edward Lhuyd (*Parochialia*, ii, 75) mentions an "Intrenchment" at Bryn yr Eryr. Nothing of the sort is to be observed in the immediate vicinity of the farmhouse now so called. But about 250 yards distant from it, on the known site of an

\* Archdeacon Thomas thinks an earlier foundation, dedicated to St. Elian, is evidenced by the place-names Ffynnon Elian and Rhyd Elian. It is, however, by no means sure that these names are ancient, Rhyd Elian appears as Rhyd Hilian on the Ordnance sheet and in the Tithe Survey. Edward Lhuyd (c. 1698) knows nothing of Ffynnon Elian, though he mentions the saint's well. An inconclusive argument is that the day on which the parish bounds were perambulated was the 14th January, the same day as at Llanelian in Rhos. But again, Edward Lhuyd gives the wake day at Bettws as "wyl fair gyntaf viz. pythefnos or kynhaiaf," which, whatever it means, does not connect the day with January.

is modern. On the south side of the altar is a plain circular piscina. One of the pulpit panels is dated 1741. There is an interesting chandelier, the stem a carved wooden pillar, the curved and twisted branches of brass latten. In the porch are the remains of a stoup. The churchyard contains several very ancient yews, and many 17th and 18th century tombs of members of the family of Maysmore (the English form of the Welsh Maesmawr).—Visited, 24th July, 1913.

NOTE.—The church is reputed to have been founded by Gwerfil Goch, a daughter of Cynan ap Owain Gwynedd, lord of Meirionydd (d. 1173), and as there is documentary evidence that it was in existence in 1254 the ascription to this Gwerfil is highly probable.\*

## Parish of BETTWS GWERFIL GOCH.

older farmhouse, is a rounded eminence with rather steep slopes which on one side descend sharply to the river Alwen, and on the other sides are appearances of a shallow ditch. These may be remains of the old farm surroundings, but there are no other signs of earthworks.—Visited, 19th October, 1914.

14. *Dol main ?maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 N.W. ; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 43''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 28' 4''$ ).

This is a field (Tithe Schedule, No. 351) on the farm of Dol Gynlas, on the east side of which is a boulder, 2 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 9 inches, that may have given the enclosure its name. The word 'main,' meaning 'narrow,' is hardly applicable to the shape of the field.—Visited, 29th July, 1913.

15. *Rhos y Gadfa*, 'the heath of the battle' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 1 S.W. and S.E. ; lat.  $53^{\circ} 2' 3''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 47''$ ).

This once-open ground has been enclosed and divided into a number of small holdings, so that whatever antiquity or historical association may have been connected with it is now lost and forgotten.—Visited, 29th July, 1913.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

16. *Coins—Roman.* In *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1863 (III, ix, 271) is an account of a discovery of coins about half a mile from the Goat inn, near Maesmore, in a field called Gwaun yr Allt, on the right hand of the lane leading from the inn to the village of Bettws Gwerfil Goch. The account continues:—"The deposit was discovered about a foot below the present surface; but about two years previously a high earthen bank had been removed from the same place, so that they must have been buried under the bank. The lane from the Goat to Gwerfil Goch was once the only high road from the North of Wales to the South, leading direct from Caerwys and Holywell to St. David's, in Pembrokeshire, and is probably one of the oldest lines of roads in the Principality. Although there are no indications of its being of Roman construction, yet there is little doubt but that this line of communication was used by that people, if not by the earlier inhabitants. The number of coins is said to have been about seventeen hundred (?) and were, without exception, as far as has been ascertained, one third brass, of the latter part of the reigns of Constantine and his son, and all of the ordinary types. They were enclosed in an earthen vessel, which was broken to pieces by the natives; but a portion was secured by Captain Taylor of Colomendy, Corwen, who has kindly furnished these particulars. He states that the pottery is undoubtedly Roman ware, though not of a very superior kind. The cairn which enclosed the kistvaen alluded to was situated on rising ground about a quarter of a mile from the farm called Rhyd y Fen, a mile to the east of the place where the coins were found. Amid the loose stones which composed the cairn, the position of the kist can be easily made out by the fresh fractures of the slatey stone of which it was composed. Unfortunately the ignorant peasants had broken up the skulls, and carried away the fragments as curiosities. According to the farmer's story, there appeared to have been at least two skeletons; but no implement of any kind is known to have been found." All enquiries about this important discovery have proved fruitless.

## Parish of BRITHDIR AND ISLAW'R DRE.

## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

17. *Rhos Hafotty Carneddau, &c.* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 20''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 22''$ ).

In an enclosed piece of moorland about half a mile south-east of lake Creigenen, on the main road to Talyllyn, and on the opposite side of the road to Rhos Hafotty, near the south wall of the enclosure, is a standing stone, 5 feet in height, but much out of the perpendicular. About 300 yards to the north-west of this stone is a second, 2 feet 9 inches in height; probably an antiquity.

## Parish of BRITHDIR AND ISLAW'R DRE.

To the west of the first-mentioned stone and close to it are two ruined cairns, the first, scarcely a foot above the surface, grass-grown, and about 35 feet in circumference. The other is a heap of disturbed stones, about 2 feet high and 100 feet in circumference. About 25 yards north of the standing stone the remains of a large cairn lie scattered around, and in the immediate neighbourhood of these stones are the bases of at least six other cairns and several hut circles.—Visited, 27th April, 1914.

18. *Hafod Dywyll Carneddau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 48''$  and  $47''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 57''$ ).

On the enclosed moorland (*ffridd*) belonging to the above-named farm is a fine cairn which has been rifled and its contents scattered about. This cairn had a distinct podium or foundation of a height of about 18 inches. At least eight other cairns, which were apparently of smaller dimensions, stood in the same enclosure ; and all bear traces of the spoiler. Another rifled cairn, distant about 150 yards north-west of the first-mentioned, shows no traces of a solid foundation, but has its base marked out by a series of discontinuous boulders placed at intervals of 9 to 14 inches. The walls of this cairn are still from 5 to 6 feet.—Visited, 13th October, 1913.

19. *Cader Idris Carneddau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 12''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 56' 50''$ ).

On the spur of Cader Idris known as Tyrau mawr is a long low rise of ground with two small eminences at each of the north and south points of the saddle, each height being crowned with a cairn. The eastern of the two cairns, at the northern end of the rise, stands about 6 feet high ; it has been opened. The western cairn is also about 6 feet high, and 150 feet in circumference ; it seems to be intact. The southern point has also two cairns which touch each other. They are similar to those on the northern prominence, and show no signs of excavation.—Visited, 26th September, 1913.

NOTE.—The first-mentioned cairn was opened about the year 1850 by the late Mr. Wynne Foulkes, a competent investigator, and inasmuch as his account is the only one we possess of the excavation of any of the Cader Idris cairns we append it :—*Carnedd Lwyd on Moel Gallt y Llyn*. This is a large carnedd situated near the summit of the above-named mountain (one of the Cader Idris chain, to the west of it) close to a boundary wall dividing the Nantcow and Gwastad-frynn sheep-walks. It measured about forty-five feet in diameter from east to west. It was reputed to be the repository of treasure ; and some years ago an old woman, goaded by nightly visions and dreams, became so impressed by this idea that she made a vigorous attack upon it ; but the wished-for prize was dashed from her thirsty lips by an avenging storm of thunder and lightning, as she herself affirms. The elements, more propitious to quiet and less avaricious archaeologists, gave us far less cause to complain than the carnedd itself. Following up the old woman's researches in its centre, we penetrated its recesses to the very foundation, which was rock, but without finding anything of a sepulchral character. Of this result I confess the freshness and diminutive size of the stones which were thrown out afforded some warning ; and although "nil desperandum" is a golden motto to which I tenaciously cling in researches like the present, the general aspect of the interior of this carnedd discouraged me from making another attempt. Yet for what other purpose than that of sepulture could such a pile as this have been raised ? There were no traces whatever of fire about it, and it was on a wild sheep-walk, where agriculture had bestowed no toil for the improvement of the herbage (*Arch. Camb.*, 1852, II, iii, 99).

## DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

20. *Carreg y big*, 'the peaked stone' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 11''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 40''$ ).

On a field called Cae Carreg y big belonging to the farm of Penryn Gwyn is a prostrate monolith which, owing to a projection from one of its sides, is called the 'peaked' or 'pointed' stone. It is said that there were formerly two stones which stood close together. About the year 1822 one was upset by treasure seekers, and a grave exposed which contained bones. The hole was closed, and the stone broken. The smaller stone was uprooted, and deposited in the hedge. The latter would seem to be the stone known as 'carreg y big.' (Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 1890, p. 90.)

It is possible that these pillar stones were the supporters of a cromlech which covered a burial. Near the surviving stone are some shallow trenches or hollows, about 2 feet across ; they may have had some connection with the interment.—Visited, 25th September, 1913.

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## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

21. *Tyddyn y Coed* Earthwork (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 25''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 56' 3''$ ).

This earthwork, standing about 1,000 feet above Ordnance datum, has been formed by surrounding the summit of a rocky hill with a strong stone wall. The shape of the enclosure is a long oval, of a maximum east and west length of 100 ft., and width of 50 feet. The surface is fairly flat and may have been roughly levelled. The interior is divided lengthways into two almost equal parts by a natural outcrop of rock, and this feature has been adapted so as to form two distinct enclosures, with an entrance of 11 feet wide from one to the other at the south-eastern end of the earthwork. The walls are much disintegrated, and in certain places the face of the rock has broken away, carrying some of the stonework with it. The walls which are nowhere above three feet high have spread out to a width of over 20 feet. In the northern division of the enclosure, at the north-western corner, is a depression that may denote a hut dwelling, and in the thickness of the wall in the southern area are several irregular spaces which may have been intended for chambers. The entrance, which was at the south-eastern side of the hill, is too ruinous and obscured by scattered stones to permit of its being accurately described. There was probably a second entrance on the south-west, but few indications of it remain. An unusual feature is the defence of the winding pathway up the hill by strong parallel walls of stone, now almost levelled.

There is no supply of water within the camp, but a good spring exists at the foot of the hill.—Visited, 25th September, 1913.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

22. *Gwanas* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 9''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 49' 21''$ ).

This place is mentioned in a Survey of about the year 1284, where it appears as "Hospitallis de villa de Wona," and also as "Hospitallis de Wannas." The religious order of St. John of Jerusalem had a small hospice and grange on the high road across the mountains between Dolgelly and Dinas Mawddwy. It was a Welsh benefaction to the knights of the commandery of Halston in Shropshire, and Wanas or Gwanas was doubtless the patrimony of a Welsh chieftain under the headship of the lord of Cantref Meirionydd.

Close to the larger and more pretentious residences of Plas Gwanas and Gwanas fawr is the small farmstead of Dol Yspytty ('the hospice meadow'), where the name is the only survival of interest to the archaeologist. This, or some spot within its immediate vicinity, is where the hospice of the knights was placed. The neighbourhood was 'the district (or vill) of Gwanas,' and at some quite unknown period, but probably not prior to the dissolution of the monasteries and dispersal of the property of the commandery, a dwelling of stone was erected on or near the site of the present house of Plas Gwanas, and possibly also on that of Gwanas fawr. Both buildings are in the main of much later date, but the former contains a short length of walling that is possibly of the 16th century, while Gwanas fawr may be a century later.—Visited, 18th September, 1913.

NOTE.—See No. 60 (note) for the chapel of Gwanas.

23. *Caerynwch* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 32''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 49' 51''$ ).

The earlier of the two houses of this name appears to have been of E shape, the vertical stroke of the letter representing the front of the house, which faced eastwards. The south wing is shorter than the other, and always appears to have been so. This part has been allowed to fall into disrepair, and is not now in use. The north wing contained the best rooms and was doubtless the residence of the owner of the estate, the south wing being the dwelling of the bailiff or farming tenant—a common arrangement on small Welsh estates in the seventeenth century. A broad stone passage divides the two portions of the house. The entrance to the principal dwelling, which was in the centre of the north wing, opened directly upon the hall, and had the living rooms on either side; the fittings and arrangements have been much altered. The house is of only one storey, but there was a fine range

### Parish of BRITHDIR AND ISLAW'R DRE.

of attic chambers in the roof lit by a row of dormer windows, seven in number, two of which still retain their leaded panes. One of the residential rooms on the ground floor is panelled with plain oak panels. The house is roofed with tiles ; it is of the period 1620-30.

NOTE.—The name Caer Ynwech points to an early, possibly prehistoric, earthwork, after which the residence was called, but no early earthwork is to be found in the immediate neighbourhood. There is, however, mention made of a 'Kairrunhok' in a charter granted by Elise ap Madoc (c. 1183) to the monks of Strata Marcella (Ystrad Marchell), near Welshpool, co. Montgomery. The other names in the charter connect this place with the parish of Llangwm (*Mont. Coll.*, iv. 30), where is a farm called 'Castell' which may be the site of the original Caer Ynwech. The name may have accompanied a migrating landowner.

A statement in *Peniarth MS.* 118, now in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, a manuscript written by Dr. Sion Dafydd Rhys about the year 1600, supports the suggestion that the name Caer Ynwech took the place of, or was imposed upon, an earlier place-name. The statement runs :—“And in the same parish [Dolgelly, now Brithdir] is a mountain called Moel Yscydion. And in this mountain was the abode of a great giant called Yscydion Gawn and from his name that hill was called Moel Yscydion.” To which passage, as translated by Mr. Hugh Owen, M.A., in *Y Cymroddor*, 1917, xxvii, 127, is the note :—“Moel Esgidion or Moel Caer Ynwech,” with a reference to Morris's *Cantref Meirionydd*, where that writer (p. 69) refers to the well-known tradition respecting the contest for the overlordship of Gwynedd when Maeldaf ap Unhwch Unachan “pendevic Moel Esgidion y Meirionydd” played an important part.

24. *Bryn Mawr*\* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 49''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 57''$ ).

A well-built house which has been so extensively modernised that it contains little of interest to the antiquary. Much of the roof timbering is original, and on one of the beams are carved the letters, ‘y ty hwn yn y flwyddyn 1617 Rees Lewis a'i gwnaeth’ : ‘this house was constructed by Rees Lewis in the year 1617.’—Visited, 17th April, 1914.

NOTE.—One Rowland Ellis, son of Ellis Rees ap Lewis, and a grandson of the above-mentioned Rees Lewis, lived at Bryn Mawr. He became an influential member of the Society of Friends and emigrated to Pennsylvania where he died in 1751 (Glenn, *Merion tract*), leaving a large share of his patrimony to found an educational seminary which has developed into the famous college of Bryn Mawr.

### DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

25. *The Parish Church*. It is only since the year 1894 that Brithdir and Islaw'r dre has been a separate civil parish ; previous to that date it was a township of Dolgelly. A church has been built, and a new ecclesiastical parish formed.

### DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

26. *Ffynnon Ffridd Arw* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 39''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 51' 54''$ ).

This is a small spring on the Dolgelly-Machynlleth road, the water of which was formerly of much repute. There does not appear to have been any well, and the rock-hollow in which the water now collects is comparatively modern.—Visited, 16th April, 1914.

### DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

27. *Llwybr Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheets, 34 N.W., N.E., and S.E.).

An ancient trackway crosses this parish from Llanfachreth in the north-west to Llanymawddwy in the south-east. It is nowhere called ‘Sarn Elen,’ but always ‘Llwybr Elen,’ ‘Elen’s footpath.’ It enters the parish of Brithdir and Islaw'r dre from Llanfachreth at Pont y fidwl, which the modern Ordnance maps have made into Pont Rhyd ddwl, a small bridge over the Wnion about five miles above Dolgelly (lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 40''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 46' 55''$ ), and as a farm track passes through the premises of Lletty gwyn (not Lletty wyn, as on the Ordnance sheet). Thence it turns eastwards,

\* In a deed of the early 17th century Bryn Mawr is mentioned as ‘alias Bryn y groes,’ and to this day a small farmstead about 200 yards to the east of Bryn Mawr is called ‘Coed y groes,’ ‘the wood of the cross.’

In 1875 a burial was discovered in the farm yard of Bryn Mawr, the interment having been made in a wooden coffin protected by large stone flags, one of which bore the letters A.H. The grave was probably at one time distinguished by a wooden cross, whence may have arisen the alternative name of the farmstead.

## Parish of BRITHDIR AND ISLAW'R DRE.

and is seen at its best in its steady ascent of the mountain. It is here 11 feet 6 inches broad, and slightly raised, the surface a hard rough macadam ; there are no signs of curbing. Beyond Hafotty Lletty gwyn the track is not so apparent, but it is stated that in favourable weather it can be traced over the borders of the parish to that of Talyllyn and Llanymawddwy. There can be no doubt that this has a good claim to be regarded as the line of the road between the Roman stations of Tomen y mur and Pennal.—Traversed, 2nd October, 1914.

28. *Llwybr Cam Rhedynen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 S.W., lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 20''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 12''$ ).

This is a well-known path on the north-western slopes of Cader Idris. At the point indicated above, where it passes from the parish of Brithdir to that of Llanfihangel y Pennant, it is termed by the Ordnance Surveyors a "Roman Road." This it certainly is not, nor does it possess any of the usual features of such ; and it is probably no more than an immemorial sheep track.—Traversed, 26th September, 1913.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

29. *Friends' Burial Ground* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 35''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 50' 39''$ ).

About the year 1645 a small plot of land on the farm of Tyddyn y garreg was set aside by the then owner, Owen Lewis, for the purpose of a burial ground for the use of the people called Quakers. The last interment here of a known 'Friend' took place in 1846. Shortly afterwards the ground was rented, and in December, 1854, was purchased by the Independents of Capel Tabor who have almost filled it with monuments to their dead.—Visited, 18th September, 1913.

Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 143.

NOTE.—The name Tyddyn y garreg is probably derived from a large pillar stone which is stated to have stood near the farmstead, and to have been overthrown between the years 1811 and 1817 (*ib.*, p. 87).

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

30. *Bryn y Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 51''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 49' 59''$ ).

A natural site on the farm of the same name showing no appearances of artificial agency.—Visited, 18th September, 1913.

31. *Craig y Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 10''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 56' 15''$ ).

A small rocky prominence on the high ground called Dolgledr. There are remains of a low wall which may have at one time enclosed the summit of the rock, but it is now quite impossible to say whether it may have been an early defensive enclosure, or is a comparatively recent pastoral construction. The name has probably no antiquarian significance, and the site is also called 'Castell y Waun.' The ruins of a rectangular building with rounded ends about half a mile south of Craig y Castell are also probably connected with sheep farming.—Visited, 13th October, 1913.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

32. *Bronze Axehead.* In Morris's *Cantref Meirionydd* (pp. 89, 312) it is stated that about the year 1878 a bronze axehead weighing about two pounds was found somewhere between the lakes 'Llyn Gafr' and 'Llyn y Gader,' and near lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 28''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 45''$ . It passed into the possession of Mr. Llewelyn Pritchard, station-master, Dolgelly, who is said to have presented or disposed of it to a London museum ; but nothing further has been discovered concerning it. It may have been confused with a jade axehead found near Dolgelly, and now in the British Museum.

## Parish of BRITHDIR AND ISLAW'R DRE.

32A. *Bronze Spearhead.* In the year 1877 Mr. Thomas Harris of Coedmwsyglog Farm, while ploughing, came upon a stone cist in which was a bronze spearhead, 5 inches long, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches broad. The implement was presented to the Museum of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

33. *Gold Torc.* In September 1823 a fine gold torc was discovered on the mountain enclosure above Llyn Gwernan called Ffridd Gilfachwydd appurtenant to the farm of that name. The reputed site of the discovery is shown on the 6 in. Ordnance Survey sheet, 37 N.W., at lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 27''$ . No careful account of the find appears to have been written, and the first notice of it is given in Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, (1834), s.v. Dolgelly, contributed probably by one of the neighbouring clergy. The only particulars which are furnished are that it is 42 inches in length, and of a weight of 8 oz. 8 dwts. It is now the property of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., Wynnstay, who has permitted a photograph of it to be taken. The torc was exhibited at

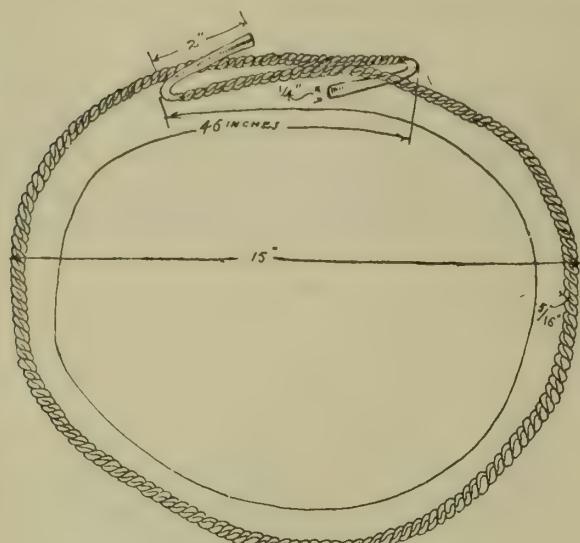


Fig. 40.

the meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association at Ruthin in the year 1854, when it was catalogued as a "Gold Torc, found in 1823, in Ffridd Gilfachwydd, near Cader Idris," a description which seems to be based upon the account in Lewis's *Dictionary*.

For a similar object found at Harlech, see No. 171E.

## Parish of CORWEN.

## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

34. *Carnedd Moel Fferna* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 16 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 53''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 18' 52''$ ).

On the summit of Moel Fferna, 2,071 feet above Ordnance datum, are the remains of a much ruined cairn. It was first denuded for the erection of an ordnance trigonometrical point, and, later, two shelters have been built on to and out of it. Its original circumference seems to have been about 300 feet. The 6 in. Ordnance sheet notes the finding of "an urn containing human remains" at this spot, but nothing appears to be known of any such discovery at present.—Visited, 20th October, 1914.

35. *Carrog Ucha Cairn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 16 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 11''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 18' 31''$ ).

In a field called 'Erw calch,' 'lime acre,' on the farm of Carrog Ucha, is a low stone mound now about 3 feet high and 60 feet in circumference, the long axis running north and south. It has been rifled, and a cist exposed. Most of the enclosing stone slabs have been removed, but one that remains measures 4 feet 3 inches long.—Visited, 12th October, 1914.

## DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

36. *Pen y Garreg* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 16 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 13''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 17' 37''$ ).

This is a boulder, 4 feet 6 inches high, 3 feet broad, and 11 feet 6 inches long, that has given the name Cil y maenllwyd to the farm on which it stands. Tithe Schedule No. 187.—Visited, 12th October, 1914.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION (HILL FORTS).

37. *Caer Drewyn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 59' 20''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 21' 34''$ ).

This is a large camp formed by the enclosure of the upper part of a hill situated to the north of the town of Corwen. What is probably the first mention of it is to be found in Peniarth MS. 118, now in the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth, a manuscript written by Dr. Sion Dafydd Rhys about the year 1600. The particular tract in question (fo. 829) is a list of caerau (or fortified enclosures) in Wales, with the name of the hero or giant with which they were associated in popular tradition.

Of Caer Drewyn it is said—

Drewyn Gawr a wnaeth Caer Drewyn yn y Deyrnion, am yr abhon a Chorwen. Ac yw gariad y gwnaeth y Gaer honno, er godro ei gwarthec yndi.

Drewyn Gawr made Caer Drewyn in Deyrnion, the other side of the river from Corwen. And to his sweetheart he made that Caer, to milk her cows within it. (See translation of the tract in *Y Cymrodor* (1917), xxvii, 146-7.)

This interesting entry gives rise to the suggestion that at Caer Drewyn there are two enclosures, one of which has no intentional connection with the other. It may be further conjectured that the inappropriateness of what may be termed 'the annexe' to the particular purpose of the main enclosure had always been recognised, and that this belief had assumed the form that the camp, or a part of it, had been always intended for the folding and milking of cattle. Indeed, it is quite possible that the place may have been put to that use when Sion Dafydd Rhys picked up the tradition. The importance of the tradition for us is that though it applies the story to the entire camp, it clearly denotes a difference between it, or a portion of it, and the ordinary type of defensive hill fortresses.

Edward Lhuyd or his correspondent, about the year 1698, had either met with Dr. S. D. Rhys's account, or had heard of the same tradition. Lhuyd's notice of it (*Parochalia*, ii, 44) runs as follows :—

Kaer Drewin a round stone wall about an acre of ground where they kept their cattel in war time.

This without doubt is the same tradition, but less clearly understood or expressed. It may also be pointed out that Lhuyd's "about an acre of ground" must refer to the annexe alone, since the entire enclosure contains over ten acres.

Pennant visited the site about the year 1780 ; his description of it reads thus :— "It lies on a steep slope of a hill ; it is of circular form, and about half a mile in circumference ; and the defence consists of a single wall, mostly in ruins ; yet in some parts the facings are still apparent ; in the thickness of the walls are evident remains of apartments. It had two entrances. Near the north-eastern is an oblong square, added to the main works ; and as the ground there is rather flat, it is strengthened with a great ditch and a wall ; within are the foundations of rude stone buildings, one of which is circular, and several yards in diameter ; the ditch is carried much further than the wall, and seems part of an unfinished addition to the whole. It is conjectured that Owen Gwynedd occupied this post, while Henry II lay encamped on the Berwyn hills, on the other side of the vale.\* Owen Glyndwr also is said to have made use of this fortress, in his occasional retreats" (*Tours*, ed. 1810, ii, 197 ; ed. Rhys, ii, 191). In a later passage Pennant regards Caer Drewyn as one of "the chain of Clwydian camps," but it would demand a considerable extension of geographical limits to bring it within the scope of the term.

\* It is possible that Mr. Robert Vaughan, who died in 1666, had Caer Drewyn in mind when he wrote "Corwen, where Owain the great prince of North Wales encamped himself A.D. 1164 when Henry II who came, against North Wales : the trenches are yet to be seen." The places traditionally occupied by Owain Gwynedd are fairly numerous, and may have been so in fact.

## Parish of CORWEN.

In the year 1885 an able student of the prehistoric archaeology of Wales, the Rev. Hugh Pritchard, of Dinam, co. Anglesey, made what he calls "a few tentative clearances" along the wall of the camp. His account is given in *Archæologia Cambrensis* for October, 1887 (V, iv, 241), and as, apart from purely speculative references to Caer Drewyn, this seems to be the first occasion upon which it received careful examination, we append Mr. Pritchard's observations:—

Its fern-grown interior was measured by step only, and the dimensions thus obtained are not to be regarded as accurate. According to this mode of computing it is 248 paces long from its western to its north-eastern gateway, and 195 paces across in its widest part from north to south . . . The western rampart of Caer Drewyn is much reduced, and has evidently served the neighbourhood as a convenient quarry whence stones for the construction of farm-buildings and mountain-enclosures were easily obtained. The lower gateway in this western wall is distinctly formed, and shows the stony remains of its return-defences curving to meet each other as they recede inwards, with the object, no doubt, of narrowing the passage, and of commanding the approach in front. These returns leave a space of 19 feet from point to point. For the purpose of further straitening the gateway, we find within the narrowest part of it, to the right, the foundation-stones of two squarish huts, measuring respectively 12 feet by 8½ feet, and 11 feet by 8 feet; and on the opposite side, and to the left, the remains of two circular ones, which together nearly blocked up the passage, leaving for admission a width of not more than 4 or 5 feet. These lodges, I think, did not form a part of the original design. On the inner side of the left return are the ruins of another circular hut, conveniently situated for those who had to watch the gateway.

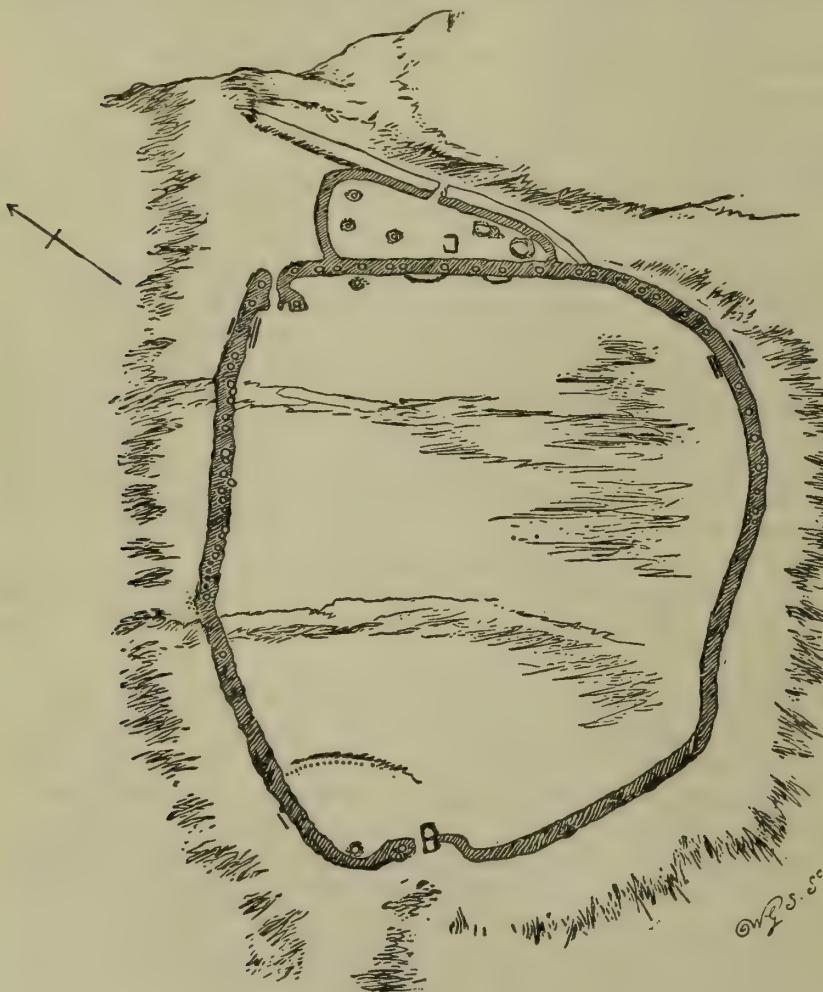


Fig. 41.

been selected on account of its sheltered position under the great rampart of the Caer. It is 72 paces long by a mid-width of 22 paces.

East of it is a broad trench, 12 feet deep, which commencing at the outer front of the large enclosure, and running outside of the smaller one, is continued 58 paces further to the neck of land mentioned above, where it abruptly terminates. This trench, seemingly an after-thought, adds materially to the security of the entrance by protecting its front, and by narrowing the pathway leading up to it. Pennant says of the trench: "It seems part of an unfinished addition to the whole"; a remark, the accuracy of which is fully established by a small clearance at the southern end of the lesser fortification, and still open, where it is shown that the contents of the trench have been thrown up to a preconstructed rampart. The principal vallum of the Caer, like others of its class, shows no traces of an outer collateral trench.

In a central part of this north-eastern gateway we had the upper loose stones removed on each side, with the object of bringing to view its masonry, and of ascertaining its width. At this point it measured, from wall to wall, 18 feet, a width which became gradually reduced to 10 and 11 feet, as we advanced inwards. On the northern side of this entrance, the thickness of stonework, from its outer to its inner face, is 25 feet, which seems

The other entrance is at the upper end of the enclosure, and passes through its eastern vallum just where it meets the northern, and with it forms an angle. This was one of importance, as appears by the massive ruins on each side, and the care taken in the arrangement of flanking walls and lodges within it. In front the ground slopes gradually away to a neck of land connecting the fortified part of the hill with a higher ascent towards the east. This connecting ground between the two hills serves as a natural causeway leading up to the camp, which all had to traverse when entering from the north or east.

South of this gateway, and extending along the eastern wall, on the outside there is a smaller enclosure, as shown in the plan, containing a few hut-remains snugly situated, where possibly a chieftain may have resided; one of the dwellings, with an interior diameter of 23 feet, being considerably larger and better placed than the others. This outwork is 16 yards south of the gateway, for the defence of which, in a flanking position, it is conveniently situated, but does not appear to have been made with this object. It might rather have



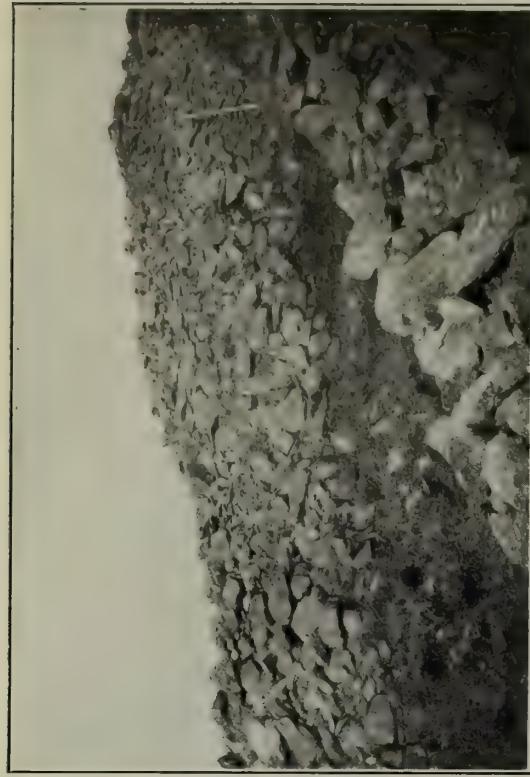


FIG. 42. General view of walling.

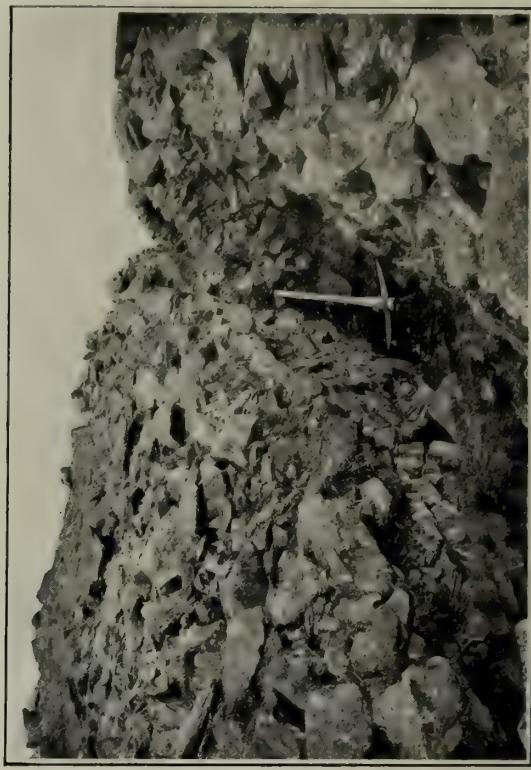


FIG. 43. Interior.

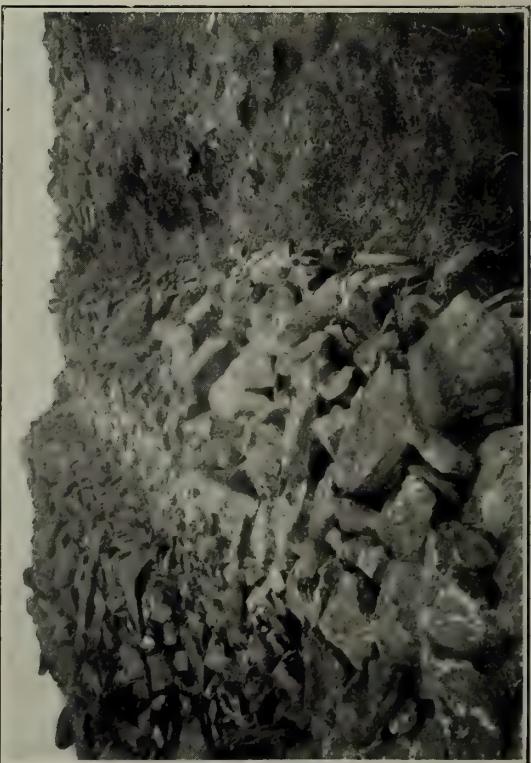


FIG. 44. Interior, showing platform.

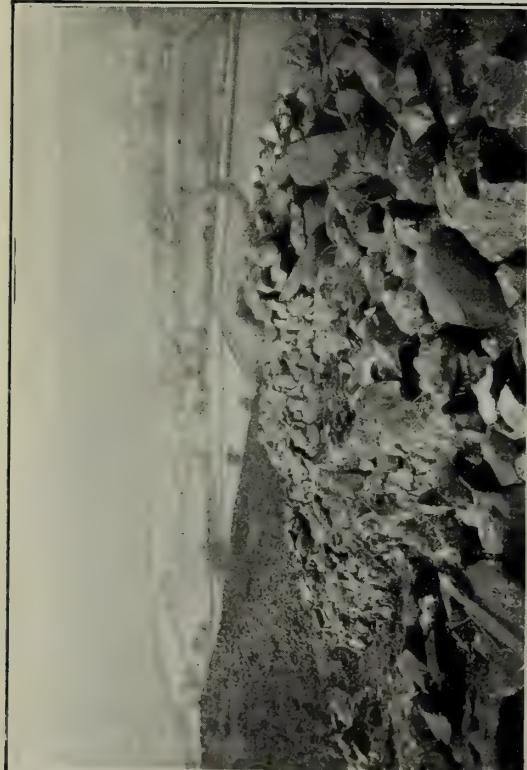


FIG. 45. Interior, showing face of wall.

Figs. 42-45. CORWEN: CAER DREWYN (No. 37).

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to have been pitted or chambered ; and the height of the whole mass of wall, with its displaced stones, is 12 feet on the outside. A tape passed from the outer limit of the passage to its inner extremity of flanking walls and huts gave an extent of 90 feet.

We next commenced a search on the northern and outer side of this gateway, and cleared its facing in two places. The first bit uncovered brought to view good uncemented work with well-placed stones, the interior of the wall being filled with dry rubble. A short distance further, towards the west, 18 feet of the same wall was cleared to the depth of 4 feet ; and here we noticed a similar style of construction, but met with no indications of terracing.

Discontinuing our search on its outer front, we tried its interior, commencing immediately below the point where the flanking works of the gateway terminate. Here about 60 feet of the rampart's length was cleared, and it soon became evident that this part of the fortification is compound, consisting of two or more lines of masonry, contiguously built. The present height of the terrace next to the enclosure is 3 feet. Measured across its top its thickness varies from 4 feet to 5 feet, the lines being very irregular. The second wall, as seen at the back of the first, ascends 2 feet higher ; and its upper face has much the appearance of having supported another step or terrace, 4 or  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide. This appears from the fact that a distance of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the edge of the second step there is a continuous line of stones closely and methodically arranged along its upper face, and perceptibly higher than the rest of the building, whilst beyond and parallel with it, at a distance, in some places of 3 feet, and in others of 4 feet, there is another prominent arrangement of stones. These courses combined seem to mark in outline a third step based on the broad surface of the main structure, their continuation downward as the faces of a distinct wall being doubtful. On the further side of this supposed third step there is the usual width of 5 feet or more for the continuation upwards of the outer part of the wall to form a parapet.

The height and thickness of this northern rampart near to the gate, and its continuation in similar strength along the eastern front of the camp, imply that this was the weakest point of the position, and that it was from the north-east its defences were most easily approached and assailed. On its other three sides an attacking force would have had to breast a steep ascent under the missiles of the defenders.

We then moved to the opposite side of the area, and effected a small clearance at the south-eastern curve of the rampart, where it bends round towards the south-west. Here we were fortunate in meeting with an excellent specimen of a double wall, each face being fairly built, and perfectly distinct. A length of several yards of the lowest step was uncovered, and its present height was ascertained to be 3 feet, with a width at top of 5 feet. Beyond and above this first terrace the main wall attains the height of 3 additional feet, from the upper edge of which, across the ruin to its exterior limit, is a width of 15 feet. It hence appears that the thickness of the combined walls at this point is 20 feet or thereabout. The upper face of this 15 feet of stonework may have been topped by a third terrace with an outer parapet.

The purposes for which these several lines of masonry were constructed, and to what height they were raised, has not been ascertained. If intended as buttresses, which seems probable, they certainly would have added materially to the stability of walls of loose rubble kept in position simply by rude facings put together without cement. In this instance the addition is found on the inner side of the vallum, and not on the one nearest to the declivity ; to account for which we may suppose that in giving the outer face of the rampart a suitable batter, the builders were neglectful of the interior and allowed it to overhang.

If designed as means of ascent to the parapet, their width of 5 feet seems to imply a further object ; such, for instance, as standing space for a supporting party ready to step into the places of their disabled comrades in front, or to relieve them when required.

Most of this account is relevant to the appearance of the camp at the present day, though it would appear that much stone has been removed from the walls. In 1912 a good deal of tidying was done by Mr. J. Salusbury Roberts of Corwen, who exposed parts of what he terms " the fighting platform," finding the total width of wall and platform to be 18 feet. Mr. Roberts took some excellent photographs, four of which are reproduced (figs. 42-5).

The salient features at Caer Drewyn are the incurved entrances, and the small circular chambers at the south-western entrance ; the double or " compound " walls, as Mr. Pritchard terms them, which are clearly apparent in one or two places ; the hollow spaces forming chambers in the walls, especially along the eastern line of walling which overlooks the Dee valley ; and the annexe on the north-eastern side. With regard to the double walling, the difficulty of accepting this peculiarity as part of the original scheme of defence arises from the small length of it which can be followed. So far as the walls are traceable there is no doubt of their compound character, but at best they extend only for a few yards along the entire length of the circumvallation. There is, moreover, nothing in the surface of the ground, either internal or external to the main wall, that appears to call for additional defence, and it is difficult to resist the conclusion that this strengthening of the defences is not coeval with the original construction of the stone vallum, but is due to a later period. Much the same explanation may be offered of the annexe. The wall of this smaller enclosure is slighter in character, both in width and general size of the stones of which it is formed. It has its independent entrance in its own exterior wall, but there is no opening from one enclosure into the other. Furthermore, the walls of the former are not built or bonded into those of the latter, though doubtless we should not look for the scientific methods of a later age. Finally, the constructions, whose remains are plainly visible in the ground of this smaller enclosure, are in several respects dissimilar to the ruined hut circles sometimes found within or near great stone-walled camps.

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It would therefore appear that there are at Caer Drewyn evidences of habitation at different periods which may be divided from each other by many centuries. No proof exists of its occupation by Owain ap Gruffydd, the powerful chief of Gwynedd, who is historically known to have encountered the hosts of Henry II in 1175 in this neighbourhood. There is also nothing in the nature of the site or character of the attendant circumstances to favour the tradition which couples the camp with the fortunes of Owain Glyndwr. On the other hand, the latter is known to have occupied Moel y Gaer, one of the prehistoric defensive positions of Flintshire, where one of his principal adherents met his death, and it is quite consistent with the probabilities of the case that he should have taken advantage of the strong stone walls of Caer Drewyn. They would doubtless require reparation and strengthening in places, and it may be that to the struggles of the medieval period some of the unusual features of the position are due.—Visited, 15th June, 1920.

[Illustrated, figs. 42—45.]

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB DIVISION D (CASTLE MOUNTS, WITHOUT ENCLOSURES).

38. *Rug\** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 S.E. ; lat. 52° 59' 1", long. 3° 24' 20").

In the grounds of the present mansion of Rûg is a large mound which, whatever may have been its original purpose, has been utilised as a sepulchral barrow. The mound is 15 feet high, has a base circumference of over 300 feet and a summit diameter of about 30 feet. In 1875 a shaft was driven into the mound at the outside ground level, and this shaft was secured so that ingress is obtained to the very centre of the mound. At the centre a stone cist was discovered.

No scientific account of the excavation with plans and sections appears to have been written, but the late Mr. Charles Wynn, the owner, then living, recorded the main facts in a manuscript account which remains at Rûg, and from which the following particulars are taken.

The grave, which measured 36 inches by 18 inches and 20 inches deep, was formed of four large flagstones from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches thick set on end; one of these stones was broken. There were no covering or bottom slabs. This structure was strengthened by a large stone placed at each corner as a sort of support or buttress to the stones composing the cist. The grave was further encircled by a low walling of stones 5 feet in diameter, and at a distance of 10 feet was another circle of stones. When cleared out the cist was found to contain "some dust and small lumps of burnt bone mixed with the soil, of which it was full." Above the stones was a layer of black mould about 4 feet thick, intermixed with heavy brown clay. At a still higher level, said to be about 4 feet from the summit, was found a smooth stone of the size and shape of an ostrich's egg, and a flat circular bone object ornamented with circles. Six more of the same objects were subsequently discovered. One is said to have been presented to the British Museum, the remainder are preserved at Rûg.

Rûg was one, and perhaps the most important, of the baronies into which the commote of Edeirnion was divided. It is mentioned as 'Cruc' (a mound) in the Life of Gruffydd ap Cynan (ed. Jones, 1910, p. 132), and was no doubt the caput of a small manor.† During his exploration of the mound Mr. Wynn came across what he describes as "the foundations of an octagonal building 24 feet in diameter, composed of small boulders mixed with bits of brick and cemented with mortar." These were probably the foundations of a summer house or pleasure resort constructed in quite modern times.‡ But it is equally possible that they are the remains of a stone building which may have succeeded the wooden castelet that formed the residence of the first Welsh baron of Rûg. At any rate, the prior residence to that now existing, according to an early drawing of it given in *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1887 (V. iv. 48), and reproduced here, was built in the first half of the 17th

\* Pronounced nearly like *Reeg*.

† British Museum *Addit. Charters*, 7199, is an account of the Crown officers of the county of Merioneth for the 12-13 Hen. VIII. One of the entries records that in the 18th Hen. VI the manor of Rug, which Res ap David ap Hoell, one of the barons of Edeirnion, held of the Prince of Wales by military service, and of which he had died seised in his demesne as of fee, was in the King's hands and accounted for at 10s.

‡ A letter of the 29th December, 1693, to Mr. Edward Lhuyd, speaks of it as "now adorned for an ornament" (*Arch. Camb.*, II, ii, 54).

## Parish of CORWEN.

century, and stood at the foot of the ancient mound. It is clear that if the medieval motte had possessed the usual ditch and enclosure those adjuncts had been swept away.—Visited, 11th June, 1913.



Fig. 46.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (CASTLE MOUNTS, WITH ENCLOSURES).

39. '*The Mount*,' or '*Owen Glyndwr's Mound*' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 42''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 18' 10''$ ).

This mound forms a conspicuous object beside the Corwen-Llangollen main road. It stands on a little knoll, high above the river Dee, and commands a beautiful view of the valley in both directions. It rises about 25 feet above the surface of the ground, and is over 40 feet in summit diameter. There is a shallow ditch on



Fig. 46A.

the west and east sides, but elsewhere this feature has disappeared, as have also all vestiges of the bailey.

About 250 yards to the east of the mound are the remains of what appears to have been a moated homestead. An irregularly square area, 34 yards by 38, is

**Parish of CORWEN.**

surrounded by a wide ditch, now dry except to the north-east, where the spring which fed it still shows itself. A few stones remain within the enclosure where the house probably stood.

It is probable that the mound represents the *caput* of one of the small baronies of Edeyrnion, and that it met the almost universal fate of desertion probably in the fifteenth or sixteenth century for a larger and more convenient residence a few hundred yards distant. The mound is associated with Owen Glyndwr, and the site of the house on the flat is traditionally said to be that of Owain's palace. There is nothing inherently impossible in the popular belief, but it is not probable that the Welsh chieftain, whose mound-castle was at Sycharth in the parish of Llansilin, possessed another such residence at Carrog, and the homestead with its moat may be of a little later date than the period when Owain flourished. The manorial associations of both mound-castle and homestead moat are seen in the name of the meadow opposite Pen y bont House about 550 yards west of the mound, which is still known as 'Erw'r llys' (Courthouse meadow).—Visited, 10th October, 1915.

[*Illustrated, fig. 5.*]

40. *Ucheldre Mound* (6 in Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 59' 44''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 25' 2''$ ).

Immediately west of Ucheldre House (No. 41) is a circular mound which doubtless represents the site of the original baronial mound-castle, and the residence of one of the smaller barons of Edeirnion. The mound has been considerably interfered with and encroached upon by the buildings of the farm. The moat is distinctly traceable.—Visited, 21st October, 1914.

**DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).**

41. *Ucheldre House.* The present house of Ucheldre is an interesting example of late 17th century domestic architecture. In plan it seems to have consisted of two wings, but no central porch. The house faced east, the space between the north and south wings formed a large sunken courtyard, the descent to which is from the north side by wide stone steps; the courtyard retains part of its original pavement. The north wing is deserted, and its windows blocked. The south wing and part of the central block forms the present dwelling. The original oak staircase has a moulded rail, and the balusters a pleasing wavy ornamentation. The staircase bears the date 1686, which is doubtless the date of the house and some of the farm buildings.—Visited, 21st October, 1914.

42. *Carrog Ucha* (6 in Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 33''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 17' 48''$ ).

This is a house of contemporary date with Ucheldre, but it has been even more thoroughly modernised. The staircase is old, and has kept its ornamental balusters. The entrance doorway has a round arch, formed out of a single stone, and massive jambs.—Visited, 10th October, 1914.

**DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).**

43. *The Parish Church* (6 in Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.). Ded: SS. Mael and Sulien. Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural deanery of Edeyrnion; townships of Aberalwen, Bonwm, Bodorlas, Carrog, Hendreforfydd, Llygadog, Mwstwr, Tre'rddol, Tir llannerch.

The church consists of nave, aisleless chancel, north transept, south aisle, west tower, and north porch. It was much altered in 1871 when the south aisle was entirely rebuilt and a south transept swept away. The structure is devoid of ornamental detail, and there is no feature from which its original date can be safely gathered. In the east wall are three narrow lancets of the early 13th century;

## Parish of CORWEN.

all the other windows are modern, or have been restored. The font is circular with a cable moulding at the junction with the stem, and another halfway up the bowl. It is probably of the 12th century, or even a little earlier, but it has been retooled and given a modern appearance. The nave roof has been much restored.

Beneath a low arch, in the north wall of the chancel, is the effigy of a priest which bears the following inscription : 'Hic jacet Iorwerth Sulien vicarius de Coruaen,\* ora pro eo.' The effigy is in low relief. The lower part of the slab is level with the surface, and this portion is bordered with the inscription. The space within the border is occupied with the front of the vestment continued from the figure at the head of the slab, and beyond the bottom border appear the feet of the person commemorated. The date appears to be the beginning of the 15th century.

Forming the lintel of the re-constructed south doorway is a rude stone on which is incised a cross, 21 inches in length, the long arm of which is narrowed downwards to a point, giving it the appearance of a dagger, a feature which has doubtless led to its being called "Owain Glyndwr's dagger."†

Into the external wall of the north porch has been built a huge unshapely monolith which is known by the name of 'y garreg big yn y fach rewlyd,' 'the pointed stone in the frozen nook.'

In the churchyard at the west end of the church is a cross-shaft bearing considerable resemblance to the cross-shaft of Eliseg at Llangollen, and to other cylindrical

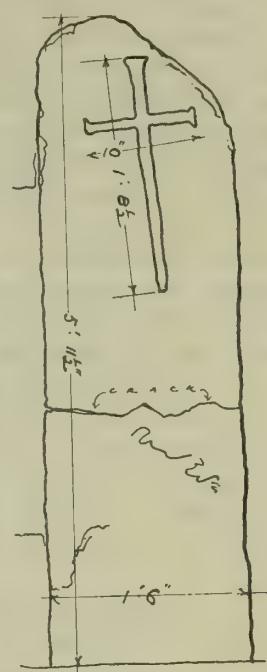


Fig. 48.

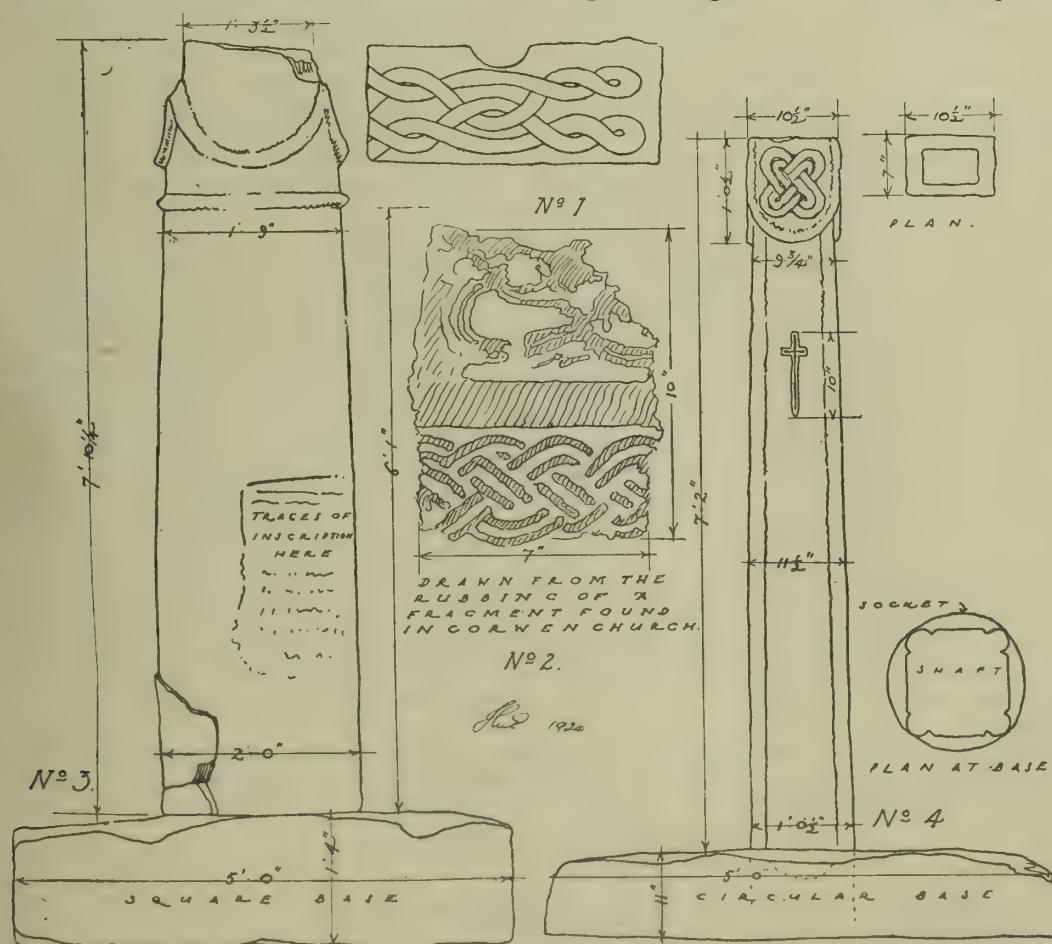


Fig. 49.

(1) Fragment of lost cross (Corwen).  
(2) Ditto.

(3) Cross-shaft of Eliseg; outline.  
(4) Cross-shaft in Corwen churchyard; outline.

\* The spelling "Corwaen" occurs in early documents, and is doubtless the original form of the name. It means "the (sheep) fold meadow." In the Patent Roll of 22 Henry VI occurs the presentation of John ap Gruffydd goch to the church of Corwaen.

† A drawing of this cross-inscribed stone, executed by one, D. Parkes, who toured the north-eastern district of Wales about the end of the 18th century, is in British Museum *Addit. MSS. 21010*.

## Parish of CORWEN.

cross-shafts found in that part of England north of the Trent which lay within the bounds of the kingdom of Mercia. At Corwen the upper part of the column constituting the actual cross-head has disappeared (as is also the case with the Eliseg pillar), but the four sides to which the cylindrical form has been brought are filled with interlaced carving confined within a plain rounded moulding which follows each angle and passes into a curve below. The accompanying illustrations will show the form of shaft and style of decoration. On one side of the shaft at about two-thirds its present height is a cross cut in relief, 10 inches long.

There can be no doubt that the Corwen incised shaft is the remains of one of the crosses which are generally regarded as dating from the ninth century. These crosses are found to have been erected in various parts of the ancient kingdom of Mercia, and of which the example at Corwen marks probably the farthest western extension of the type.

Amongst the gravestones of the latter half of the 18th century are several low head-and-foot stones with grooves for kneeling. They also appear on graves in the churchyards of the neighbouring parishes of Gwyddelwern, Llansantffraid and Llangar. On the south side of the church are six small houses for widows of clergymen, built in 1750. The houses are known as "the College," a name which may perpetuate an earlier structure, and a collegiate form of ecclesiastical foundation.—Visited,

Thomas, *Hist. St. Asaph* (1911), ii, 144; Owen, *Stone Crosses of the Vale of Clwyd*, 16; Glynne's "Notes," *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 269.

NOTE.—That there once existed in Corwen churchyard another stone cross is proved by the following evidence to which it is desirable that attention should be drawn in view of the possibility that some fragments of it may be discovered in the course of a future restoration of the church, or that they may lie hidden away in an unsuspected corner.

In Professor Westwood's *Lapidarium Walliae*, Plate LXXVII, fig. 2, is shown a sketch which is reproduced (fig. 49 (1) above), of which the following description is given at page 168:—"At the time of my visit to Corwen in 1835, I also found an oblong stone lying at the base of the font having on the upper surface a double interlaced pattern, with a semicircular impression on one of its larger sides. It is not easy to guess what may have been its original position or use." It is now impossible to ascertain how accurately Professor Westwood's sketch represents the carving upon the stone, though it can hardly be doubted that the design is intended for the interlaced cable work which is such a characteristic and universal feature of Celtic art forms. The stone is not now in the church, and may not be in existence. It had disappeared before the year 1913, or it would almost certainly have been noticed by the Inspecting Officer of this Commission whose attention was specially attracted to another fragment of stone carving to be next referred to.

During some repairs to the tower in the year 1907 a fragment of carved stone, 10 inches by 7, was discovered a few inches beneath the earthen floor of the interior. This fragment was partly covered with interlaced work of the basket or plat design generally present on the crosses and other monumental features of the pre-Norman period. Another part of the carving appears to have displayed a ribbon pattern, with the bands looped together at intervals by studs or buttons. This important piece of carved stone has disappeared, and a careful search for it through the different builders' yards of the town by the present vicar and Dr. H. E. Walker of Corwen has proved unsuccessful. There can indeed be little hope that it is still in existence. Happily the Inspecting Officer of this Commission, on the occasion of his visit to the church, noticed the fragment and took a rubbing of the ornamental surface. Apart from the memories of several parishioners of Corwen who recollect its presence in a corner of the church, this rubbing now constitutes the only record of the previous existence of this piece of carved stonework. The rubbing is not particularly clear, due probably to the difficult nature of the stone, and it may be to the effects of weathering; but it makes evident the general style of the carving with which the cross was ornamented. A careful drawing made from the rubbing is given (fig. 49 (2)). The probability that this piece of carved stonework, as well as that described by Professor Westwood, are fragments of the mutilated cross, the shaft of which still stands in the churchyard a few yards from the western wall of the church tower, will at once occur to the mind, but this is negatived by the statement of Dr. Walker, who took much interest in the discovery of the last-mentioned stone, that the architect of the tower reparation (since deceased), after careful examination, pronounced it to be of different geological structure to the surviving cross-shaft.

It would appear that there must at one time have existed at Corwen two, and perhaps three, carved monuments of pre-Norman date. All else is mere speculation, to which no consideration need be given in this place.—Visited repeatedly, the last time on the 29th September, 1920.

[Illustrated, fig. 18; effigy, fig. 47.]

#### 44. *Rug Chapel.* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7, S.E.)

This small chapel was built in 1637 by Colonel William Salisbury, at that date the owner of the estate of Rug. Strictly speaking the edifice is a private chapel, erected primarily for the inmates of that mansion, but its position on the confines of the demense, about half a mile from the house, and a little over a mile from the small town of Cowen makes it probable that it was also intended to accommodate the out-resident dependents on a large estate, and it always appears to have been administered by the clergy of the parish church.





FIG. 52. Roof principal.

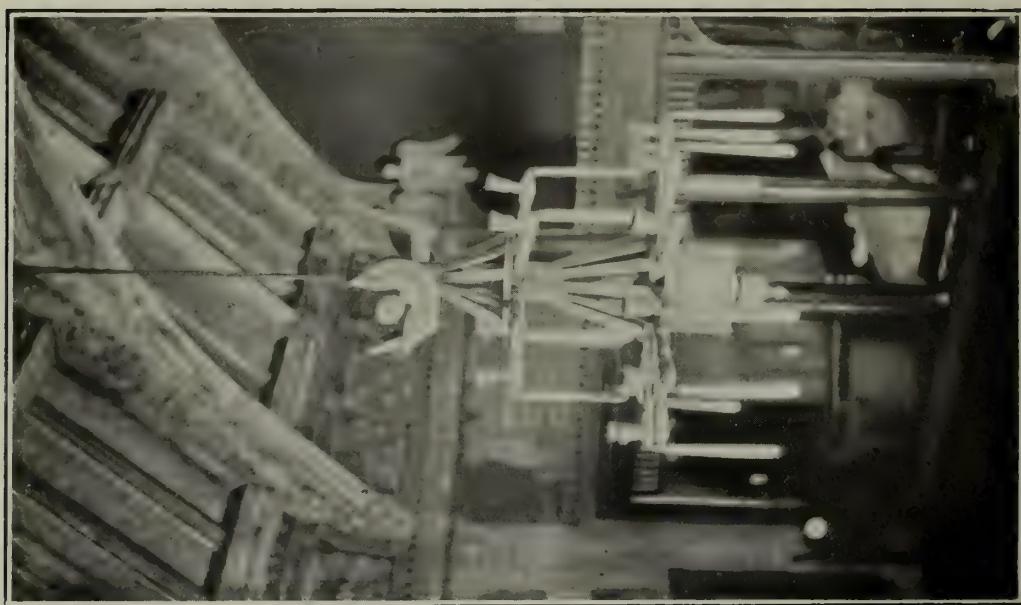


FIG. 51. Candelabrum.

CORWEN: RÜG CHAPEL (No. 44).

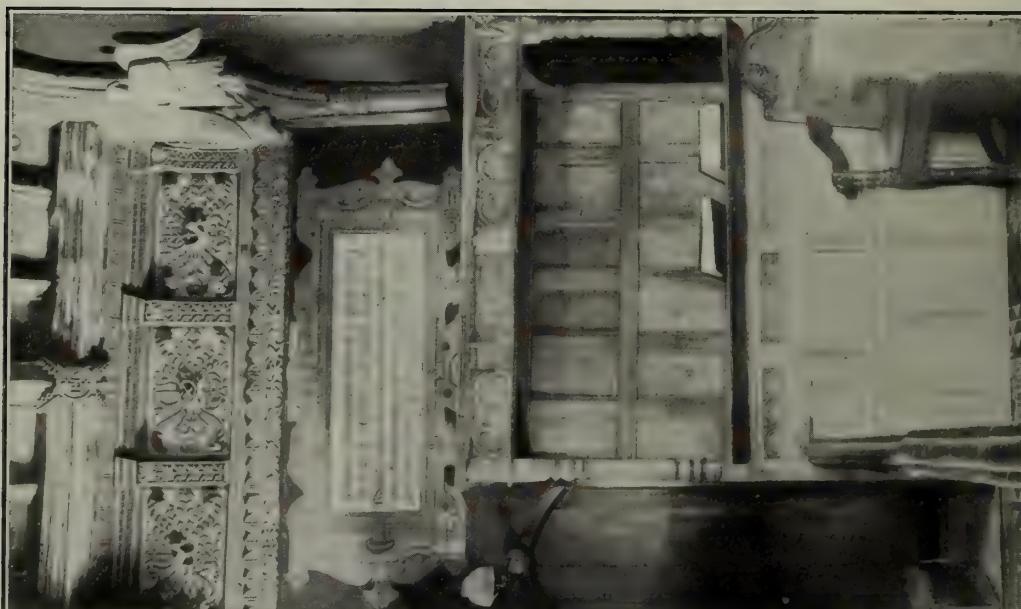


FIG. 50. Pew in chancel.

## Parish of CORWEN.

Bearing in mind the necessarily limited scope of its activities we shall not expect to find a building planned for the performance of the full ritual of a parish church. There is no structural chancel, no aisles, and no transepts. "It consists," says Sir Stephen Glynne, who visited it in 1849, "of one space without distinction of chancel; a small belfry over the west end; the windows ugly, having mullions and no tracery; and the entrance at the west end." Architecturally, it is inferior to the small post-Reformation chapels of Gwydir and Llanrwst, and from that point of view its interest lies mainly in the example it presents of the admixture of Gothic constructive and ornamental details with those of an opposed architectural style.

The chapel is a rectangular chamber, 43 feet by 25 feet; the western doorway is a plain pointed chamfered opening that has been renewed. The lighting is by a window set in each of the four walls; only the one in the gable above the west door, a small triple light, is original. The chief feature of the little building is its timber work, which exhibits an interesting example of good local craftsmanship, copying art forms of which the craftsman had lost the spirit, and, where it is original, indulging in the incongruous and grotesque. The roof is a good example of wood-work, but the principal timbers are too massive for the size of the chamber; in the corner spaces are trefoils, and above the upper truss is a quatrefoil. The ends of the posts have angel figures. The principals are five in number, one bay being given to the sacrairum and three to the nave; the spaces between are filled with wood panelling painted to represent clouds, the easternmost panels showing stars upon a blue ground. The east end is marked off at the second principal by a heavy screen, the panels of which are carved with a Greek fretwork design. Within the screen, and placed against the north and south walls respectively, are two canopied pews, one, the reader's desk, the other, and plainer, the squire's pew; these have carvings of human and animal figures. The turned wooden rails which marked off the sacrairum have given place to a low iron screen of open scroll work. The west end is crossed by a heavy oak gallery, the front carved with the vine pattern, and this is continued along the elaborate wall plates. Much of the woodwork and intervening wall spaces are profusely decorated with colour. The seats on each side of the aisle consist of benches which are connected together front and back at the floor level by a massive oak skirting slightly hollowed at each opening to about 18 inches in height. At the openings these skirtings are carved with an extraordinary medley of animal forms.

Outside the west doorway is the churchyard cross; an octagonal shaft that, with the base, has every appearance of 15th century work, though the cross-head is probably contemporary with the chapel.—Visited, 11th June, 1913.

[Illustrated, figs. 50-52.]

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

45. *Ffynnon Sulien* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 59' 9''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 23' 15''$ ).

That this spring was formed into and used as a well at an early period in the history of Corwen may be considered as certain; its never-failing supply of cold and crystal water, and its admirable situation would render it in all periods a valued possession to a primitive community. But there is no evidence that it has been the object of a cult or tradition, or that it ever was the site of village assemblies. The well chamber measures 9 feet by 6 feet and is 4 feet 6 inches deep. It is flagged with stone slabs, and the sides are lined with similar slabs.

The well bears the name of the local saint; but it should be noticed that it is situated at a considerable distance from the church, and, withal, on the other side

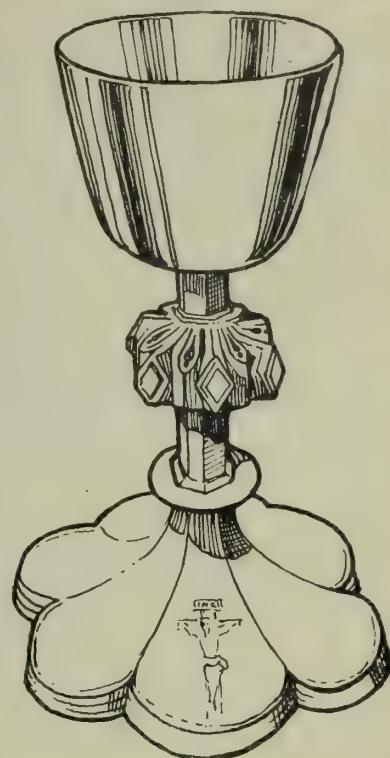


Fig. 53.

**Parish of CORWEN.**

of a deep and dangerous river which must have been impassable for a certain period of every year. Edward Lhuyd (or his correspondent) at the close of the 17th century gives a very complete description of the natural features and antiquarian remains of the parish, and furnishes an unusually complete account of its rivers and streams (*Parochialia*, ii, 44) ; but says nothing whatever of the holy well, or indeed of any well, though the saint's tomb is not omitted. It is therefore impossible to regard it as the clearly substantiated holy well of the parish.—Visited, 31st July, 1913.

46. *Owen Glyndwr's Way* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 16 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 44''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 18' 20''$ ).

The difficult country between the rivers Dee and Tanat is not traversed so freely as was formerly the case, and the desertion of the ancient trackways is tending to make them less visible year by year. One of the paths that crossed the high land called Moel Fferna and led from Corwen to the valley of Llansilin is still called 'Owen Glyndwr's Way,' being doubtless the course traditionally followed by the Welsh chieftain and his attendants in their passage from the Sycharth of Llansilin to the Sycharth of Glyndyfrdwy. Reversing the route, the road will be found to start for the mountains at a point near Park Cottage, Llidiart y Parc (8 S.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 18' 37''$ ). At the outset the road will be found fairly good though steep, but as it ascends through Nant ffridd isel its quality declines, and near Moel Fferna (lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 5''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 18' 20''$ ) it becomes a sunken path with sides fallen in and tracks overgrown with heather. It crosses the parish of Corwen south of the river Dee with an almost direct southerly course until it arrives at the boundary of the parish of Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog at the Moel Fferna quarry. Thence it bears eastwards, making for the valley of the Ceiriog, and, later, for that of the Tanat.—Traversed, 20th October, 1914.

47. *Carrog Bridge* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 59' 0''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 19' 3''$ ).

There doubtless has been a bridge over the Dee at the above point since very early times. The present bridge, which is one of five arches, has no striking peculiarities of curve or of situation. It has four of the usual triangular refuges on either side of the trackway. The date 1661 is carved upon one of the stones. Visited, 9th October, 1914.

**DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).**

48. *Cae Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 59' 28''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 16''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 749. There are no indications of a carnedd in this field, belonging to the farm of Bwlch gwyn, except possibly in the northern corner where a few scattered stones lie on the ground, and many others are built into the banks.—Visited, 31st July, 1913.

49. *Cae Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 17 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 7''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 14' 39''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 339. The large meadow at the back of Plas Issa is thus named, but no carnedd remains, nor tradition of such. There is a considerable natural elevation in the middle of the meadow.—Visited, 20th October, 1914.

50. *Cistfaen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 16 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 21''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 17' 36''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 182. The field so called belongs to the untenanted farmhouse of Cil y maenllwyd on the northern slope of Moel Fferna. In a wood on the western side of the field is a collection of boulders which probably are the remains of a scattered cairn, but the whole has been so effectually destroyed that the cist, which at one time must have been exposed and has given a name to the field, is now not traceable.—Visited, 12th October, 1914.

51. *Cae'r maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 59' 38''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 25' 10''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 2007. The occupier of Ucheldre farm did not know by the above name the field so numbered in the Tithe Schedule, but called the field

## Parish of CORWEN.

immediately north of it Cae maen, in the hedge of which, adjoining field 2007, is a schistose block, 3 feet high, about 5 feet broad, and 3·5 feet thick.—Visited, 21st October, 1914.

52. *Cae'r maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 59' 32''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 13''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 730. There is now no stone of unusual size in the above field belonging to the farm of Trewyn bach.—Visited, 31st July, 1913.

53. *Erw'r garreg* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 16 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 14''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 15' 49''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 1603. A large boulder, about 3 feet high above ground, occupies a little eminence near the centre of this field, and doubtless explains its name. No traditions are connected with it.—Visited, 12th October, 1914.

54. *Ffridd y garreg lwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 16 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 37''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 17' 8''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 1549. A grey upright stone stands towards the north end of the west side of this coppice. It is 2 feet high and about 2 feet broad. The top looks as though the stone had been fractured, and suggests that its height was once greater than it now is.—Visited, 20th October, 1914.

55. *Cae'r garreg lwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 59' 50''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 59''$ ).

There is no stone in the field here indicated, but a field on the opposite side of the road is also known as 'Cae'r garreg lwyd,' and in the latter is a hog-backed grey stone about 20 inches high which may be the source of the name; the fields were probably one a long time ago.—Visited, 21st October, 1914.

56. *Hendom, Erw'r Orsedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 35''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 17' 14''$ ).

The first-named site is that of a mound on the banks of the Dee which is almost certainly natural, though its resemblance to a motte is probably the explanation of its name. The meadow at the southern foot of it is called in the Tithe Schedule (No. 1450) by the significant name of 'Erw'r Orsedd,' 'the Gorsedd Acre.' As a place of tribal assemblage the mound is well situated.—Visited, 10th October, 1914.

57. *Bryny groes* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 33''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 17' 18''$ ).

Tithe Survey, No. 1432. This is a sloping meadow across which runs the drive to Carrog Issa, but it has no obvious feature to account for the name.—Visited, 10th October, 1914.

58. *Dol penau ucha and issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 49''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 18' 20''$ ).

These are two adjoining meadows on the south bank of the Dee, the names of which are explained by the story that on one occasion Owen Glyndwr caused his Welsh followers to put their helmets on poles so as to entice the English into thinking that the helmets covered Welshmen's heads (*penau*), and thus led them into an ambush.—Visited, 12th October, 1914.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

59. *Bronze Bell* (? Celtic). Edward Lhuyd in his *Parochialia* (ii, 45) mentions the discovery of an "old brazen yellow bell" at a place which he terms "kraig Corwen." This is, without doubt, the height immediately above the town, and the site is more exactly indicated by Lhuyd as having been by a well which thence obtained the name of 'Ffynnon y gloch velen,' 'the well of the yellow bell.'

*Bronze Thurible.* In 1858, according to the label attached to the object, a bronze thurible was discovered "near Corwen Church," probably in the immediate

## Parish of CORWEN.

vicinity of the spot where the bronze bell mentioned in the preceding paragraph was found. It measures in height 5 inches, and has a diameter of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It is engraved in *Arch. Journal*, 1859, xvi, 206, and *Arch. Camb.*, 1874 IV, v, 160. It is now at Peniarth. With it was discovered fragments of the chain to which it was attached.

[Illustrated, fig. 70.]

59A. *Medieval Bronze Vessel.* What appears to be a medieval bronze ewer, having three short supports, was found in 1855 in 'ploughing a field at Hendreforfydd.' It is now preserved at Peniarth. It would appear to be of the 15th or or 16th century.

59B. *Iron Celt.* Some time in the earlier half of the nineteenth century a wrought-iron celt or chisel-shaped implement, still retaining within its socket part of the wooden handle to which it was attached, was found "on the summit of the Berwyn mountains." It is illustrated in *Arch. Camb.* (1855), III, i, 250, and is now preserved in the British Museum. It may be medieval.

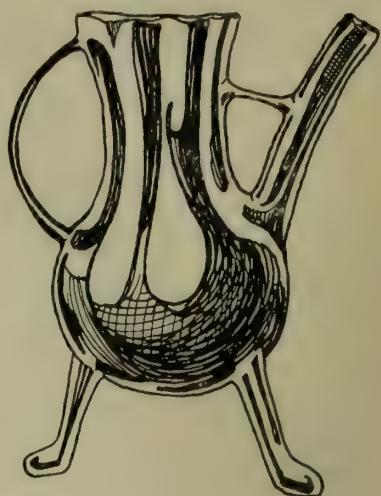


Fig. 54.

59C. *Iron Hammer head.* A socketed and spiked hammer head was found "on the edge of the Berwyn mountains" at some time prior to 1840. It is about three inches long, and has two rows of spikes, placed alternately, that project about half an inch; it weighs about six ounces (*Arch. Camb.*, 1876, IV, vii, 186, illustrated). It is now in the Grosvenor Museum, Chester.

## Parish of DOLGELLY.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

60. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 37 N.E.). Ded: St. Mary. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ystumaner.

A poor church, entirely rebuilt in 1716, and restored in 1864. It consists of nave, north and south aisles divided from the nave by arcades of oaken beams, apsidal chancel, and western tower. Forming the sill of the easternmost window of the north aisle is a fine effigy of a knight whose shield bears the inscription 'HIC JACET MEVRIC FILIUS YNYR VYCHAN.' This personage is known to have been living about the year 1350.

NOTE.—When Edward Lhuyd visited Dolgelly (c. 1698) the effigy stood under an arch on the north side of the chancel; a rough sketch is given in Lhuyd's *Parochialia*, iii, 156.

An entry amongst the *Chantry Certificates* at the Public Record Office proves the existence of a chantry altar in the parish church of Dolgelly in the 1st Edward VI (1558). The entry is as follows:—

No. 24. *Dolgelly.*

A Stipendiary called Our Lady Priest serving in the parish church. Of the increase of certain cattle now prized at £6 16s. 0d. ... ... ...

26s. 8d.

Sir Hugh Roberts ... ... ... ... ... ... ...

26s. 8d.

The residue of this stock of cattle to such number as of the increase, whereof did issue a yearly gain of 33s. 4d., for performance of the priest's wages, after 60s. by the year is sold and "imbecilled" within these two years.

Memorandum: There is owing to this priest 46s. 8d. for part of his wages for a year ended at Easter last, which the churchwardens have refused to pay, because the king's majesty is now entitled to the said cattle, by sale of which they did purpose to answer him.

A Stipendiary in the chapel called Gwanas ... ... ... ... ... Nil.

but the increase of a few cattle now prized at 39s 8d.

The incumbent amoved ... ... ... ... ... Nil.

Gwanas (for which see No. 22) is in the recently founded civil parish of Brithdir and Islaw'r Dre. The chapel was part of the grange belonging to the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.

[Illustration of effigy, fig. 55.]

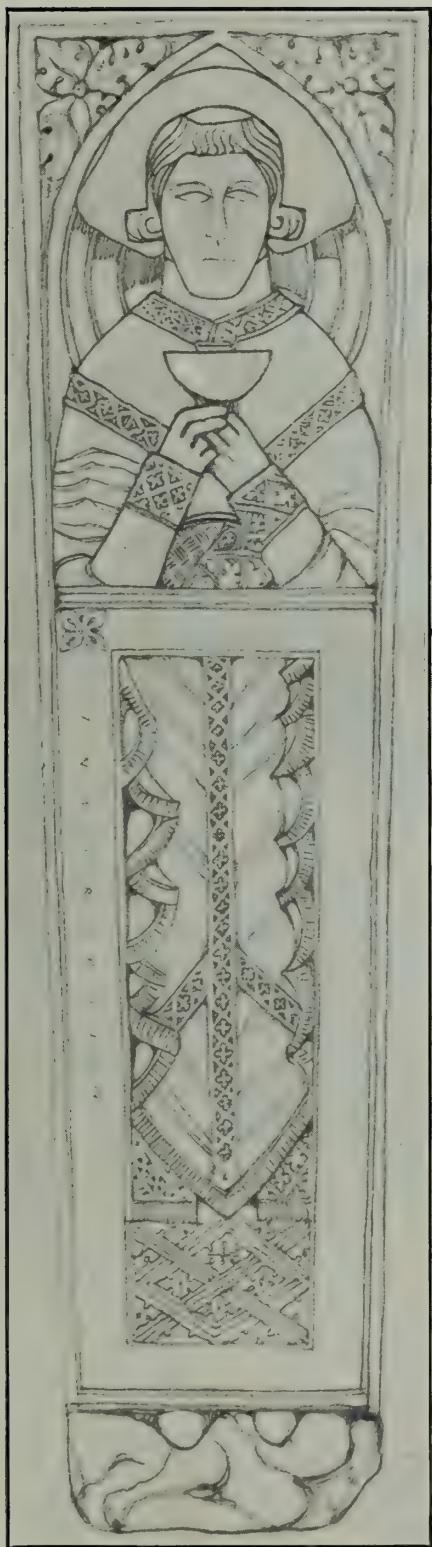


FIG. 47.  
CORWEN: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 43);  
Effigy.



FIG. 55.  
DOLGELLY: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 60);  
Effigy.



## Parish of DOLGELLY.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

61. *Ffynnon Fair.* This is doubtless the well that was associated with the parish church, in accordance with the universal custom throughout Wales. The modern masonry around it is explained by the necessity of improving the well chamber and approaches when the spring was the principal source of the water supply to the town less than a century ago. The name of the well is remembered, but no traditions of healing, or of popular resort to it, appear to have survived.—Visited, 23rd September, 1913.

NOTE.—The neighbourhood abounded in springs; about 25 yards west of Ffynnon Fair is a small spring called 'Ffynnon y llygdy,' 'eye well,' much resorted to in ophthalmic disorders. Several other springs are mentioned by Mr. R. P. Morris (*Cantref Meirionydd*, 97–100) as having been beneficially active in former days, but improved drainage and other domestic reforms have caused the practical disuse of such of the springs as still survive.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

62. *Ty Cyfarfod, 'Meeting House.'* The site of a small conventicle that is worthy of notice is to be traced in Smith Street, where is now a small tannery, with several cottages in its rear. The original structure was a meeting house of the Presbyterians, and may have been erected some time during the period of the Commonwealth. It was the property of a well-known Welsh Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Hugh Owen of Bron y clydwr, who died in 1699. His grandson disposed of it about the end of the 18th century, when it was turned to other purposes, and the small area attached to it built upon. One of the doorways at the back of the present premises has a depressed archway which may retain its original form.—Visited, 21st September, 1913.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

63. *Coins—Roman.* The discovery of several Roman coins in the neighbourhood of Ffynnon Fair is recorded by Edward Lhuyd in Gibson's edition (1695) of Camden's *Britannia* (col. 657). He mentions two as being in his possession, one of Trajan, the other of Hadrian.

64. *Glass Bead.* In the same volume of Gibson's *Camden*, and illustrated at p. 697, is what Lhuyd calls "an adder bead or glain neidr of earth enamelled with blue; found near Dol Gelheu in Meirionydhshire." No description is given of it, but the illustration shows it to have been a small bead, the surface ornamented with a number of volutes.\*

## Parish of FESTINIOG.

## DIVISION Ia (TUMULI).

65. *Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy, 'The Graves of the Men of Ardudwy'* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 0''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 8''$ ).

Scattered over the rough moorland north of Ty Nant y Beddau, and at the entrance to one of the wildest passes of Snowdonia, are the remains of what was once a large group of sepulchral barrows.

The earliest specific reference to the mounds seems to occur in a series of topographical notes on the county of Merioneth written by the well-known Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt (A.D. 1592–1666), and published in *Archæologia Cambrensis*,

\* On the 9th January, 1861, a paper was read before the British Archæological Association on "Druidic Amulets" by the late Mr. H. Syer Cuming (*Journal*, xvii, 59), in the course of which he exhibited a glass bead which "there is reason to believe was formerly in the collection of the learned Edward Jones, Welsh bard to King George III, who died in the year 1824." Mr. Cuming's description shows the bead to be similar to the object figured by Lhuyd, and described by him as found near Maes y pandy in the same county as the specimen referred to. Edward Jones was a native of Merionethshire.

## Parish of FESTINIOG.

1850, II, i, 200. This consists of the single sentence :—" In the parish of Ffestiniog upon Helen's Portway are seen a great number of graves, which the inhabitants call Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy, that is, the graves of the men of Ardudwy." The notice, though lamentably brief, is important as showing that the name by which the site is still known is as old as the 16th century at least, and that the mounds were then believed to be sepulchral.

The Beddau are not noticed in the 1611 edition of Camden's *Britannia*, but in that of bishop Gibson (1695) is the following addition by Edward Lhuyd :—

" On a mountain call'd Mikneint near Rhyd ar Halen, within a quarter of a mile of this road (Sarn y Dhuall), there are some remarkable stone monuments call'd Bedheu Gwyr Ardudwy, i.e., the Graves of the men of Ardudwy. They are at least thirty in number ; and each grave is describ'd to be about two yards long ; and to be distinguished by four pillars, one at each corner of a grave ; which are somewhat of a square form, about 2 or 3 foot high, and 9 inches broad. The tradition is, that these are sepulchral monuments of some persons of note slain here, in a battel fought betwixt the men of Dyffryn Ardudwy and some of Denbighshire. That they are indeed the graves of men slain in battel seems scarcely questionable ; but when, or by what persons, etc., is wholly uncertain. One of the next neighbours informs me, that about twelve years since [c. 1682,] he saw amongst other stones brought hence to mend the walls of Festiniog churchyard, one with an inscription ; but at present there remains no account of it. By the description he gives of it, I suppose it Roman. For he says 'twas a polished stone, about 2 foot long, half a yard broad, and 3 or 4 inches thick : whereas all the later inscriptions I have seen in Wales are on large pillars, which are generally rude and unpolish'd."

A correspondent of Lhuyd, Mr. J. E. Jones of Ruthin, writing to the former on the 30th December, 1694, observes :—

I have seen part of the stone brought from Bedheu Gwyr Ardudwy, with these words *FERREVI HIC IACIT*, the stone being broken in the next line and laid in the church wall." (*Parochialia*, iii, 108.)

The stone bearing the above inscription may possibly be the same as that mentioned by Lhuyd himself in his additions to the *Britannia*, though the details given in both accounts are irreconcilable. We shall revert to the subject of this inscribed stone at a later stage (see Parish of Llandanwg, No. 164).

Pennant visited the site of Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy at the close of the 18th century. His account, which adds a few important details to those we have already given, is as follows :—

" Near it [Ffordd Helen], at Rhyd yr Halen, on the right, are the remains of Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy, or the graves of the men of Ardudwy. These graves are about 6 feet long, marked at each end by two upright stones ; but most of the stones are now removed. There are yet to be seen several circles of stones, the largest about 52 feet in diameter ; a vast carnedd, with two upright stones placed on one part, as if to mark the entrance to the cell, which it probably incloses ; and near it a lesser heap, and a small circle ; all of which had been surrounded with a larger circle, now incomplete, by the application of the materials to the making of walls. The tradition relating to these monuments is classical ; nearly parallel with the rape of the Sabines. The men of Ardudwy, to populate their country, made an inroad into the vale of Clwyd, and layed violent hands on the fair ladies of the land ; they carried them in safety to this place, where they were overtaken by the warriors of the vale : a fierce battle ensued, and the men of Ardudwy were slain, but the ravishers had somehow or other so gained the hearts of their fair prey, that, on their defeat, the ladies, rather than return home, rushed into an adjacent water, called from the event Llyn y Morwynion, or the Maidens' Lake, and there perished. That this has been the scene of a bloody conflict, there is a probability ; the graves and carnedds prove it ; and the circles evince that it was in the time when the ceremonies of Druidism existed."

A few years later Richard Fenton, the author of " A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire " (London, 1811) visited the site of the Graves, of which he gives the following account :—

Arrive at the Beddau, which Pennant seems totally to mistake, the upright stones being the bounds of the cistvaen bedded in a carnedd, most of which were plundered of old to make the Roman road, which seems to intersect them. [See No. 76]. Those that were not plundered then shew like circles with the upright cistvaen stones bare. As to the circle of 52 feet in diameter which Pennant talks of, my fancy put to the rack could not supply.

In 1851 appeared the first satisfactory report of these interesting memorials in a paper by Mr. W. H. Hancock in *Archæologia Cambrensis* (II, ii, 41) which had been read to the annual meeting of the Cambrian Archæological Association in the previous year.

Mr. Hancock's account is as follows :—

The graves which form the subject of our inquiry are known by the name of Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy which translated would mean, ' the Graves of the Men of Ardudwy.' Their site and condition I examined this day ; and that they are places of interment I think there can be no doubt. They are situated in a remote and lonely part of the retired parish of Ffestiniog, about twenty-one miles from Dolgellau, on either side of the Roman road known by the name of Sarn Helen, and on the acclivity of the hill up which this road winds. From a small elevation contiguous, the eye can command a considerable tract of country, though there is nothing in its features that is inviting, except towards the west. The Roman road here is in a tolerable state

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of preservation, and breasts, with a few windings, a steep defile, guarded on the north and east by rocks of stern and forbidding aspects. Turning to the west the scene, though confined, is beautiful and imposing, presenting all the essentials of a picturesque landscape. In the foreground, to the right, are the rocks and extensive slate quarries of Ffestiniog; immediately in front lies the much-admired vale of Ffestiniog; in the mid-distance is the beautiful estuary of Traeth-bychan, with Portmadoc embankment; while, in the extreme distance are the sea, and the blue promontory of Lleyn in Caernarvonshire.

Gibson's edition of Camden's "Britannia" contains the first allusion that I have seen to this spot, and to the tradition. In the notes to that work the number of graves is laid down at thirty. Pennant describes the place, and gives the tradition. In his wake follow other tourists, who pretend to have visited the place, and state the graves to be thirty-six in number, distinguished by stones placed at the head and foot of each grave. There might, at the time when the notes for Gibson's "Camden" were being compiled, have been thirty or thirty-six in number; but, at the present day, two head-stones only remain, and no separate graves are distinguishable. An intelligent peasant who conducted me to them, and who resided near the place for sixty years and more, informed me that "he had been there hundreds of times, and taken notice of this particular spot, on account of the remarkable tradition connected with it; but never remembered to have seen many head-stones. At one time, long ago, there might have been a dozen—never more."

The graves—for such assuredly there had been—appear to have been enclosed within two spaces, each of an elliptic form, and surrounded each by a wall of stones. Nothing now remains of this wall, besides the few foundation stones which show themselves above the natural turf, barely serving to mark the ancient limits. That the graves were not placed without due regard to order, I think may safely be inferred from the two existing head-stones, which project upwards of a foot above the ground, and mark separate graves, being placed at right angles with each other. There are at present no cairns, as some persons would have us to believe, nor are there many stones about, most having been carried away, apparently for building purposes. I am not prepared to say that there have been no *cairns*, but that there are no *cistvaens* I feel confident.

Some slight excavations appear to have been made here at no very remote time; but I failed to learn of any human remains having been exhumed, or the finding of any relics of art.

In the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, then known as the Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland, for the years 1872-73 (4th series, vol. ii, p. 528), Mr. (later Sir) Samuel Ferguson in a communication on "Inscribed Cromlechs in Ireland" gives the following quotation from a letter dated the 26th October, 1871, written by Mr. Burchett of the South Kensington School of Art:—

'On page 192 of "Black's Guide to N. Wales," I read, "On a little hill three miles N.E. from Ffestiniog there are between 30 and 40 oblong mounds, from 2 to 3 feet [? yards] long and 15 inches broad, every one having a small stone at each end. . . . The tradition respecting these memorials is as follows:—"The men of Arduddy [sic] made an incursion into the Vale of Clwyd and brought away a number of women, whom they conducted to this part of the country. Being pursued and here overtaken by the warriors from the vale, a battle ensued, and the men of Arduddy were all slain. . . . The slaughtered men were buried at this spot, and the mounds mark the place of interment."

The place is called Beddau Gwy'r Arduddy, "Graves of the Men of Arduddy," and there is a "Pass" in the immediate neighbourhood named "The pass of the Graves of, etc."

Now I knew from you that there were Ogham inscriptions in South Wales, but not, I thought Welsh Oghams. In any search amongst Meini Hirion or Cromlechs, I had been unable to trace anything of the kind—but, I thought, if anything of the sort is to be found, it is here.

On arriving at the place which local tradition asserted to be the place "of the graves," I could at first discover no trace of them on the hill-side—but seeing a solitary cottage in a near hollow, I went to it and found a woman about 50 or 55 who was born in the same house, and whose mother, then living, had been born in the same house and had lived there ever since. By the elder of the two I was informed that a few years ago a wall had been built on the land, and that nearly all the stones (the tradition was well known) had been removed and built into the aforesaid wall. The younger of the two women offered to show us the "place"—we went, and, under her guidance, found remains which very fairly corresponded with the description given, allowing for the violent and careless removal of the stones; the hollows from which they had been taken being very visible, and the battered grave mounds still to some extent remaining.

In one case, the best marked so far as the *mound* was concerned, I found at one end a stone which I proceed to describe—I made the investigation with great care, and you may rely on the results being as I am about to state them. Whether they are worth the paper I write them on your better judgment will decide. I sketch the stone (see Plate iii, No. 3) [reproduced below, fig. 56, i].

The surface, of which the dimensions are 20 inches by 6, sloped slightly backward, and was originally all that could be seen; I removed the mould from the top edge as I have shown. On the face of the stone were the marks—shall I say "digits"?—represented. They were very cleanly, I might say carefully, cut—about 4 in. and 2 in. long, and regular in their angle of inclination. They were not returned upon the upper face of the stone, and after last year's experience and careful investigation I think I may say that most undoubtedly they were cut by the hand of man *a long time ago*. After careful search I could find no other similar stone in situ. I then proceeded to examine the wall in which others had been employed. After some search I found one which seemed to belong to the set—but here I had not the advantage of light, as in the first case, and therefore I do not speak with so much reliance on my impressions. The stone I am about to describe formed a portion of the wall, but I was able to see and feel round its edges. It was softer than the first, the surface and the marks more worn and abraded; still I think the weather and softer material would account for the difference. The place where the graves are is a most secluded and desolate mountain track, only made more lively now by the near slate quarries that are worked in connection with the "little wonder" or Ffestiniog Railway.'

Then followed [adds Mr. Ferguson] a sketch of the second stone, showing the scorings *returned on the upper face*. This seemed sufficiently important to induce Mr. Burchett to return to the spot in the present autumn, and make an authentic cast of the object, to the photograph of which, lithographed in Plate iii, No. 4 [reproduced below, fig. 56, ii], I now invite your attention.

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Accompanying are reproductions of the illustrations of the Ardudwy stones, referred to above as possibly bearing Ogam characters.

It is clear that by the year 1870 the barrows, which at no time appear to have been conspicuous, had for the most part disappeared.

On the occasion of the visit of the Commission's Inspecting Officer four mounds were noticed which were more or less protected by flat stones on each side of the mounds. These measured (1) 26 feet by 10 feet, 3 feet high, direction N.E. by S.W. (2) 8 feet by 8 feet, 2½ feet high; (3) 23 feet by 14 feet, 2½ feet high, direction E. by W., a stone at either end; (4) 26 feet by 21 feet, direction E. by W., a stone on either side.

Eleven other mounds, from which the protecting stones seemed to have been removed, were noticed. They were on an average about 16 feet by 10 feet, and as a rule lay east and west. Among them, but not directly connected with any mound, was an upright stone, 1 foot high and 1 foot 6 inches broad at the base.

It is now impossible to trace any arrangement of the mounds in two groups, or of the small bank which earlier investigators speak of as enclosing each group. They lie on the slope immediately below a new waterworks pumping station, and are with difficulty distinguished in the long coarse grass of the moorland. The course of the Roman road running in the direction of Tomen y Mur is plainly traceable on the south side of the Festiniog-Bala road, but is not so easily followed on the north side of the road and in the direction of the mounds. —Visited, 5th September, 1913.

*Finds.* As regards the finds which have been connected with the mounds, a bronze palstave, which is said to have been discovered in or near one of them, is in the British Museum (see fig. 151(3)).

*Inscribed Stones.* With reference to the inscribed stone which is said to have at one time stood on (or near) the site of the Graves, as we shall have to return to this subject in connection with an inscribed stone now in the deserted church of Llandanwg, our readers are referred to the remarks under that parish at No. 164.

As regards the two stones described and illustrated by Mr. Burchett, the account quoted above derives much weight from the experience and position of that gentleman, as well as from the recognised authority of Sir Samuel Ferguson on all matters relating to Ogam inscriptions. The description of Mr. Burchett of the marks upon the first stone that he examined represents quite accurately the general style of Ogam script and the size of the characters, and his remarks upon the second stone suggest that this confirmed the impressions which he had derived from his examination of the first. It should also be borne in mind that one of the two known stones in North Wales bearing Ogam characters—that at Llystyn gwyn near Brynkir, is distant less than twenty miles from Festiniog. There is therefore ground for the presumption that some of the grave-stones at the Beddau may have been inscribed with Roman or Ogam letters, apart altogether from the obvious fact that the site was one of unusual importance in or immediately after the Roman period.

On the subject of inscription-bearing stones at Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy it should be stated further, that according to the recollections of an ancient resident in the neighbourhood, the late Mr. Richard Williams ("Wmffra Dafydd"), the Cantiorus stone, now in the church of Penmachno, formerly stood on this site.

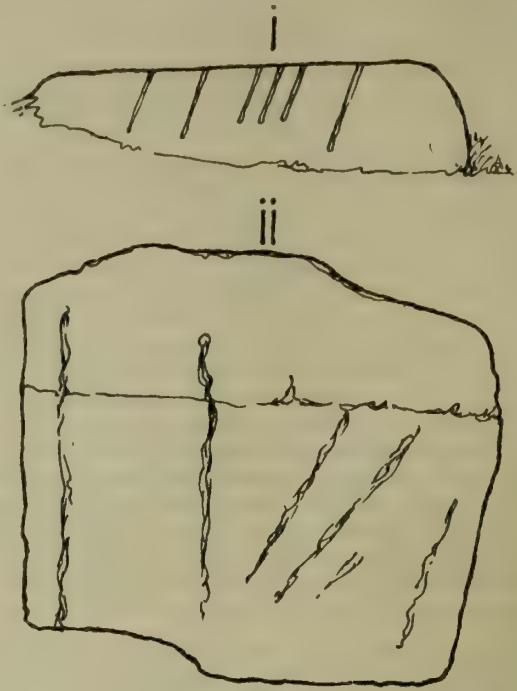


Fig. 56.

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66. *Tumulus* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 14''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 55''$ ).

In the neighbourhood of Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy, and immediately behind the farmhouse of Hafod Yspatty, is a mound of altogether different type, and possibly not of sepulchral purpose. In shape it is a long low oval, measures about 21 feet long by 7 feet 9 inches broad, and is aligned east and west. There is a shallow depression about 16 inches wide on the longer sides, doubtless due to the removal of earth for the formation of the mound. The mound itself is not more than 18 inches high, and the shallow trenches have on their exterior margin a low bank about 12 inches high, and a surface width of 4 feet 9 inches.—Visited, 23rd September, 1914.

## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

67. *Carnedd Hywel* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 10''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 30''$ ).

The ruined and scattered remains of what is known as Carnedd Hywel are situated on the lower slope of the mountain called (probably after this cairn) 'Y Garnedd.' It lies a little below Tanybwch railway station, and 18 feet north of the Beddgelert-Festiniog road. The mound is still nearly 4 feet high and 19 feet in diameter. In the much disturbed heap of stones there are no appearances of the presence of a cist. On the western side of it is a stretch of the trackway called 'Sarn Elen,' and to the south of the Maentwrog road are two tall slabs, one an old milestone inscribed 'Penmorva,' placed here probably to indicate the line of Sarn Elen. The site is not marked on the 6 in. Ordnance sheet. —Visited, 18th September, 1914.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

68. *Bryn y Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 6''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 28''$ ).

This is a nearly circular enclosure formed by carrying a bank of earth and stone round the upper part of a low, steep and rocky hill about 30 feet in height. To the east, south and north the bank is formed of earth and stone, but on the north it consists of rough stones and spar, in places still 2 feet high. The enclosed area in diameter measures 26 yards from north to south, and 29 yards from east to west. At the point facing south-west is a break in the bank opening on to a steep descent, but it is not accompanied by any strengthening of the defences. The main entrance, which was about 15 feet wide, was in the middle of the bank facing north. There are appearances of a hut dwelling as well exterior as interior to this entrance, but it is possible that these are only depressions caused by the excavation of the earth to heighten the banks at the entrance, or to more effectually shelter its defenders. The slopes of the hill are strewn with fallen stones. Sarn Elen runs near its western side. —Visited, 11th September, 1913.

NOTE.—Mr. G. J. Williams, F.G.S., has pointed out in his local history *Hanes Plwyf Ffestiniog* (p. 38) that in the story of Math vab Mathonwy the heroine Blodeuwedd is said to proceed from Mur y Casell over the river Cynfal intending to go to a "llys" on the mountain; and suggests that Bryn y Castell is the llys in question.

69. *Caer* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 4 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 35''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 3''$ ).

This is a circular enclosure lying east of and above the farm of Cae du, at the top of Ffridd Cae du, and extending into part of the next field north. The surrounding bank of earth and stone is partially destroyed, but is still clearly perceptible, especially on the west, where it rises 4 feet high above the exterior level and 1 foot above the interior. The enclosed area is almost a perfect circle, with a diameter of about 105 feet. Within the bank on the north-eastern side are remains of what appear to be at least four hut dwellings, of which one has a diameter of about 8 feet, and another about 26 feet, with an enclosing bank about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick. The entrances to the main area are not easily traceable, but one probably faced north. It is difficult to conceive that this enclosure was formed primarily for defensive purposes, and it may be nothing more than a mediaeval cattle corral; though against this view is the name of 'Caer' which it bears. It is not shown on the 6 inch Ordnance sheet.—Visited, 22nd September, 1914.

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## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION H (ANCIENT VILLAGE SITES).

70. *Coed cae Fali, Mali's woodland* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 32''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 24''$ ).

In the lower part of the farm called 'Coed cae Fali' is a group of ruined enclosures which may be the remains of hut dwellings.

(i) diameter, 20 feet; thickness of wall of rough stone and earth, 4 feet; height of wall inside, 3 feet 6 inches; entrance to N.W.

(ii) adjoining (i), but at a lower level, are the foundations of what seems to have been a rectangular building having three straight walls, and the fourth  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet by 15 feet curving outwards. The wall face is intact on one side, and at this point the wall is 4 feet thick and 2 feet high.

(iii) west of (i) is a circular enclosure, internal diameter 28 feet; the encompassing bank and remains of wall are perfect in one place, the stones being laid in the direction of the breadth and not length of the wall, and embedded in earth. The wall is 4 feet thick and 2 feet high.

(iv) south-west of (iii) and adjoining it are the foundations of a rectangular enclosure, 28 feet by 11 feet interior measurements.

(v) at a short distance is a circular building in ruins; diameter 23 feet; wall 4 feet 6 inches thick, 2 feet high; entrance to east.

At the top of the hill in Coed cae Fali, in the depths of a dense wood, and near the ruins of a comparatively modern building called 'Ty Mali,' is another group of ruined enclosures.

(vi) a circular area, the north side of which has been entirely cleared away to build boundary walls; diameter 36 feet; thickness of wall and bank, 10 feet.

(vii) on the east of and adjoining (vi) is another circular enclosure, the north part of which has almost entirely disappeared; diameter about 48 feet; thickness of wall, 4 feet; height, 3 feet.

(viii) about 40 feet north of (vii) are the scanty remains of a similar enclosure; diameter about 31 feet; a bit of bank and wall, 5 feet thick, is perfect on the east side.

The interiors of the last three enclosures are choked with vegetation.—Visited, 21st August, 1914.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

71. *Dol y moch* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 29''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 33''$ ).

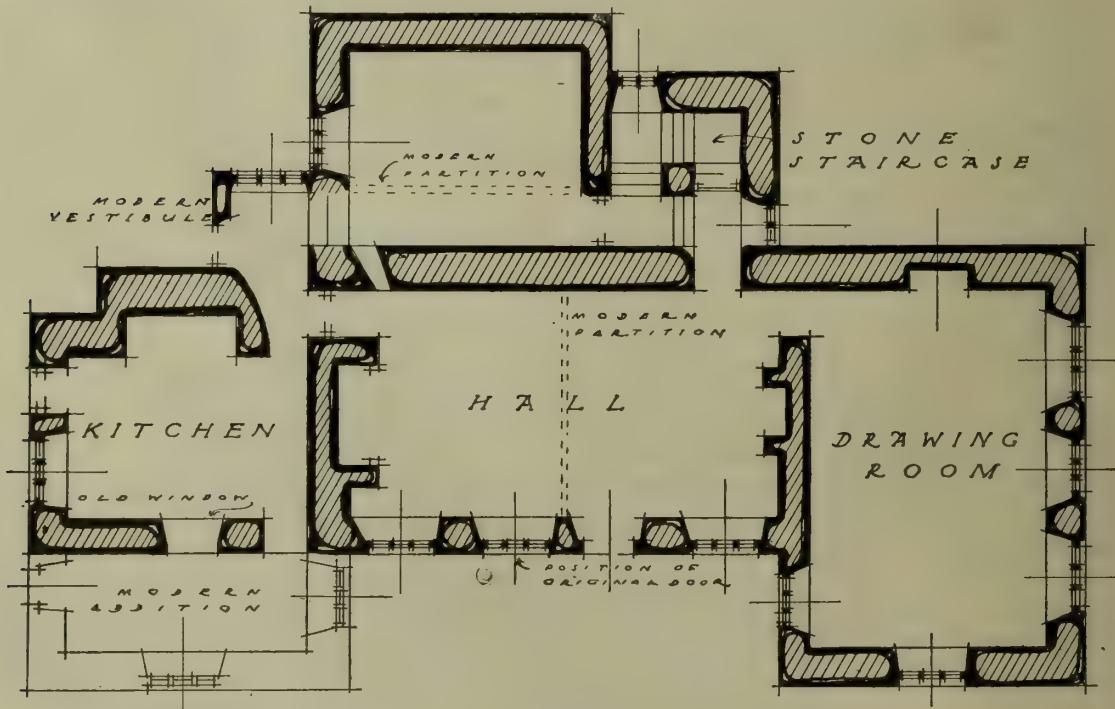


Fig. 58.

A good example of the residences of the Welsh gentry dating from the latter half of the 16th century. The house has a frontage of 82 feet. The eastern wing



FIG. 57. FESTINIOG: DOL Y MOCH (No. 71).



FIG. 135. TOWYN: DOLAU GWYN (No. 536); plaster ceiling.



FIG. 134. TOWYN: DOLAU GWYN (No. 536).



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bears the date 1643, which points to some alterations in that year, and in 1910 further changes were made by the present owner. The timbering is good, and the main body of the house has a fine open roof. In the eastern wing, on the walls just below the ceiling, were depicted the arms of some of the royal tribes of Wales, and in two of the chambers are the arms of Hywel Coetmor.—Visited, 15th September, 1914.

*Hanes Plwyf Ffestiniog* (G. J. Williams), 1882, p. 206, with illustrations of house and coats of arms.

[Illustrated, fig. 57.]

72. *Pengwern* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 7''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 56' 15''$ ).

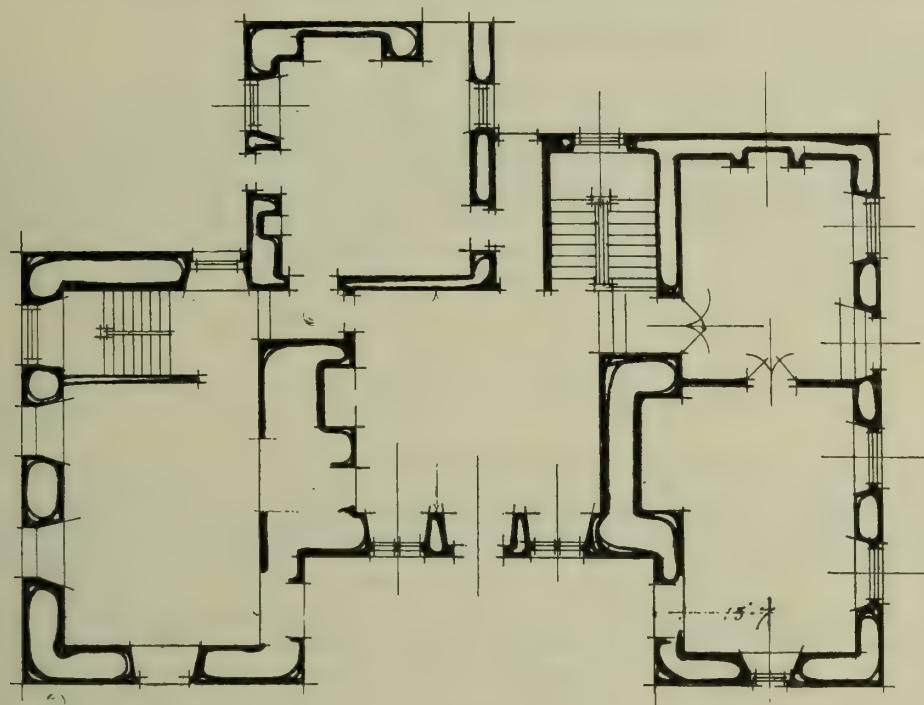


Fig. 60.

This is a large, much modernised, house of the mid-17th century, formerly the residence of the Lewises, and later the Wynnes of Llwyn. It has an oak-panelled hall, and front and back staircases of oak having turned balusters. None of the original windows remain. Over one of the outside doors is a shield of arms, very indistinct, on which are visible a saltire and the legend 'Joh. Lewis obit 26 Februarii, 1683.'—Visited, 22nd September, 1914.

Mr. G. J. Williams in his *Hanes Plwyf Ffestiniog* gives the year as 1693.

[Illustrated, fig. 59.]

73. *Hafod Yspatty* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 15''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 56''$ ).

A small house of the early years of the 16th century, with a later doorway, standing on a low elevation in a mountain valley, and a little west of Sarn Elen. Over the front door is a wooden lintel shaped to the form of a segment of a circle, bearing the legend 'Peace to this house' in Greek letters.

There are also several initials, of which those of E.A. and part of a date 16—are dimly discernible. Inside, in the screen dividing the kitchen from the living rooms beyond, are two good doorways with plain rounded heads. The kitchen was at one time open to the roof, as is clear by the traces of an oak coupling with its truss in the chamber above. The staircase is new.—Visited, 11th September, 1913.

*Hanes Plwyf Ffestiniog*, with illustrations of exterior, and roof principal.

## Parish of FESTINIOG.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

74. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W.). Ded: St. Michael. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

This is a modern church, built in 1844-45, and repaired in 1913. The earlier church stood in another position in the same churchyard, north-east of the present building. The font is new. The bowl of the font formerly in use is 10½ inches high, 16 inches external and 12½ inches internal diameter; no drain; placed on a low base of slate.—Visited, 4th September, 1913.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

75. *Y Ffynnon (The Well)* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 4 S.W.; lat. 52° 58' 32", long. 3° 55' 37").

This is not so much a well as a spring of water which, rising beneath the floor of an old ruined house, flows copiously through an iron pipe from under the ruins. It is still resorted to by sufferers from rheumatism, fractured limbs, and other maladies, but not to the same extent as in former days. For this reason it has been suggested that it might have been the old sacred well of Festiniog, but it is not associated with any saint, and is known only as "Y Ffynnon."—Visited, 22nd September, 1914.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

76. *Roman Road—Sarn, Ffordd, or Llwybr Elen.*

The existence at Tomen y Mur, in the adjoining parish of Maentwrog, barely two miles from the southern boundary of the parish of Festiniog, of one of the most important of the small Roman military stations in Wales renders it certain that a line of communication northward must have passed first through the former and afterwards through the latter of the above-named parishes. The course of the road which connected the station at Pennal with the station at Tomen y Mur has been either described or suggested under the parishes through which it passed. (See, following its line of progress within the parishes of Pennal, No. 506; Tal y llyn, No. 525; Brithdir, No. 27; Llanfachreth, No. 313; and Trawsfynydd, No. 571. Here it comes into contact with Tomen y Mur, which is situated immediately beyond the borders of that parish, the station being actually within the parish of Maentwrog (No. 492). Continuing its direction northward it is probable that its course was along the trackway marked on the 6 inch Ordnance sheet that leads past the small farm of Llech Goronwy (12 S.W., lat. 52° 56' 40", long. 3° 54' 40"), but up to this point, and to the banks of the Cynfal, its traces are neither clear nor definite. The modern crossing of the Cynfal (12 N.W., lat. 52° 57' 0", long. 3° 54' 48") is at Pont Newydd, by which the parish of Festiniog is entered; but it is possible that the bridge used by the Romans was placed about a couple of hundred yards higher up the river, in an almost exact northerly direction from the farm of Bryn Saeth.\* The very name 'Pont Newydd' ('the new bridge') points to that presumption, though it should not be forgotten that the word *newydd* as part of a place-name may denote nothing more than the renewal or rebuilding of a structure on an old site. Northwards from the river Cynfal the course of the road is plain and unmistakable. It makes directly for the site of Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy (No. 65), which lies on the left hand, and passes down the valley of the Gamallt on its way to Dolwyddelan and Conovium, leaving the parish of Festiniog and the county of Merioneth at lat. 52° 59' 20", long. 3° 52' 46" (4 S.E.). This road is called by the Welsh Sarn Elen, and has been known thus for centuries. With regard to the particular section of it with which we have been dealing, a MS. in the National

\* This is the route taken by Fenton in July, 1813, from Tomen y Mur to the Beddau (*Tours*, 124). His words are:—"Pursue the Road . . . nearly in the track the road from the station must have taken to Dolwyddelan. . . . Pass by a place called Bryn y Saeth, and another called Bryn y Cyfergyd, and another called Bryn yr eryr Gronwy, perhaps the scene of the conflict where the slaughter happened to occasion the graves."

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Library of Wales (*Panton MS. 7.* See *Report on MSS. in the Welsh Language*, vol. II, pt. iii, p. 807) has the following note :—“Sarn Helen reaches from Rhyd yr Halen in Festiniog parish to Castell Dolwyddelan, for three miles it is otherwise called *Sarn y Ddual*, q. an a loco dicto y Dduallt.”\*

76A. *Ffordd Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 N.E.).

A short length of an ancient road, one of the early trackways known in several of the counties of Wales as ‘Sarn Elen’ or ‘Ffordd Elen,’ is visible on the north side of the road between Tafarn Trip, Festiniog, and Llanfrothen (lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 10''$ – $13''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 35''$ – $37''$ ). The stretch of road that is clearly distinguishable as ancient is about 70 yards in length. At its southern end it is close to the western slope of Carnedd Hywel (No. 67), and northward it is interrupted by Tanybwch railway station. In this part it is 8 feet wide, and lies between low banks; its general appearance is that of the ordinary country cart track. The road is resumed north of the railway at lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 18''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 40''$ , and with a north-westerly course passes into Llanfrothen parish at lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 34''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 5''$ . South or south-eastward of Carnedd Hywel in Festiniog parish the “Ffordd” could not be satisfactorily followed, but its direction is towards the Roman station of Tomen y Mur in Maentwrog parish, and it probably united with the road which connected that post with the outer world.—Traversed, 18th September, 1914.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—BRIDGES).

77. *Pont Dol y moch* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 20''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 30''$ ).

A picturesque old bridge; the single arch is a segment of a perfect circle, and is said to be Roman. The present structure is not older, and is certainly not much later, than the 16th century. It has been widened in recent times.—Visited, 18th September, 1914.

78. *Pont Dol rhiw felen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 18''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 29''$ ).

A bridge over the Goedol, having four arches and two recesses on each side

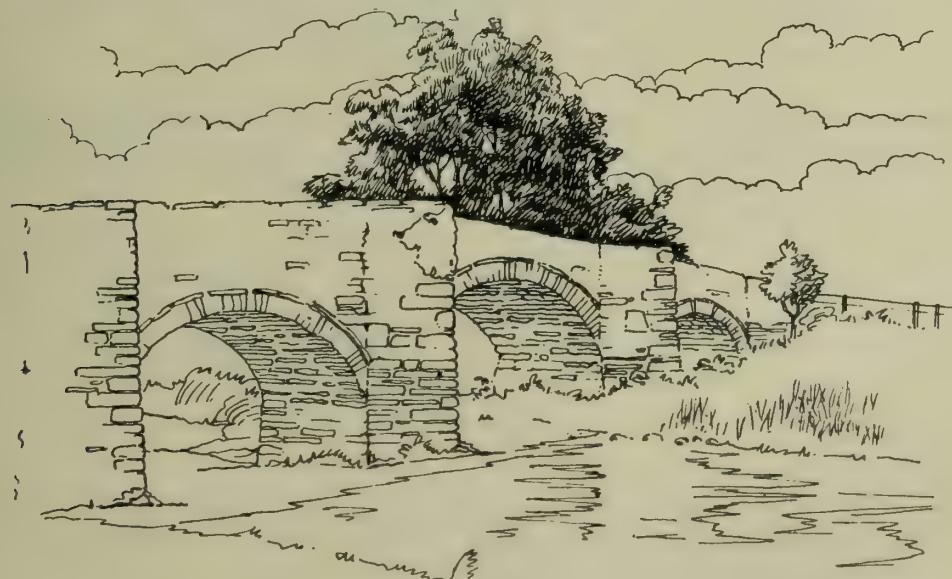


Fig. 61.

of the roadway. The design is attributed locally to Inigo Jones.—Visited, 18th September, 1914.

\* If by “Ddual” in this passage is meant (as is doubtless intended) the mountainous district called “Y Dduallt,” then that name has been confused with Y Gamallt. The latter is the mountain that rises directly beyond Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy, and beneath which the track finds its way into the valley of the Lledr.

## Parish of FESTINIOG.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

79. *Mound* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 48''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 34''$ ).

What has many similarities to a mound-and-bailey castle, but is probably not one, is an earthen mound which is situated in a fertile valley surrounded by hills about 90 yards north of the river Dwyryd. There is an elevated platform of earth, rectangular on all sides except the north where it is curved outwardly and raised slightly above the ground level. Where this platform is straight-sided it is 112 feet long and 53 feet broad; the semi-circular enclosure is 39 feet long. On this platform is placed a mound of 8 feet average height. Its summit is flat, of a diameter varying from 38 feet east and west to 41 feet north and south. On the flat top is a square tower called a summer house, an erection probably of the 18th century. The platform is not surrounded by a ditch or moat, the present ditches on the east and south sides being modern land drains. To the west of this construction and directly attached to it is a slightly raised parallel-sided enclosure, about 41 yards long by 38 yards broad, and surrounded by a ditch. It is difficult to say if this earthwork is not an unusual form of household moat. It seems to have no name or history.—Visited, 4th September, 1913.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

81. *Y Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 13''$ , long.  $3' 52' 24''$ ).

At the spot indicated, in the north-western corner of the parish, is a site called 'Y Garnedd,' but a careful search disclosed nothing in the nature of a prehistoric cairn or mound. A few days after the visit the Inspecting Officer was informed by Mrs. Williams of Garreglwyd farm, who has lived all her life within a mile of Y Garnedd, and knows the place well, that the 'carnedd' was no artificial construction, but an outcrop of natural rock. The Inspecting Officer (Mr. A. Neobard Palmer) adds, "This is the third time within two years in Merionethshire that I have heard the word 'carnedd' applied by Welshmen to serrated ridges of high rock."

82. *Henblas* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 20''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 56' 24''$ ).

A couple of parallel banks formed of earth and rough stones, having a length of 60 feet, a thickness of 4 feet, and an intervening space of 26 feet, marks the site of an ancient residence of importance, as is manifested by the name it bore. It has no history.

A few yards to the west are the remains of a circular enclosure, having a low bank of earth and stones about 8 feet thick, and with an interior diameter of 28 feet. There are two entrances, approximately north and south, but not quite opposite each other.—Visited, 15th September, 1914.

The latter earthwork, if it had been met with in less close proximity to the undoubted ruins of a medieval dwelling, would be unhesitatingly proclaimed a prehistoric hut of the 'Cyttiau Gwyddelod' variety. There can, however, be no doubt that it was a 'corlan' or sheepfold to the dwelling which it adjoins.

83. *Y Garreg Lwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 52''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 40''$ ).

The above is the location of Garreglwyd farm where there is now no indication of a grey maenhir or standing stone. Mrs. Williams, now about 69 years old, who was born in the house, had never heard of any such boulder; nor had her mother, who also was born there, ever made mention of such a circumstance or tradition of the same. But Mrs. Williams pointed out a huge piece of natural rock, having a fairly level top, standing about midway between the farmhouse and Bryn y castell, which she stated she had always heard spoken of in her girlhood as "Coffer Halen," i.e., "Coffer Helen" (Helen's Coffer). The dimensions of the rock are, length 8 feet 7 inches; breadth 6 feet at one end and 2 feet 3 inches at the other; height 2 feet 9 inches at one end and 7 or 8 inches at the other.—Visited, 11th September, 1913.

## Parish of FESTINIOG.

84. *Llys Dorvil, Dorvil's Manor house* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 4 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 53''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 56' 35''$ ).

This is the site of what was most probably the residence of a medieval land-owner possessing certain manorial advantages. It is situated on the western side of Cwm Bowydd, and now consists of an irregular oval enclosure formed by a rude wall of big boulders set upright on a low bank. The stones in the wall are not continuous, and here and there are entirely wanting. The length of the enclosure is about 150 yards east and west, and the breadth about 125 yards. It is not possible to say with certainty that the interior of this enclosure is divided up into spaces as for rooms ; but at about the point marked "Llys Dorvil" on the ordnance sheet are the remains of a small hut of no great age or importance.—Visited, 6th September, 1913.

85. *Hafod yr offeiriad, the priest's summer abode* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 27''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 2''$ ).

An ancient dwelling, now little better than a hovel, having thick walls. The occupant said the tradition was that a priest used to live there in summer time, an explanation which is doubtless derived from the place-name.—Visited, 11th September 1913.

86. *Hen Gapel* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 55''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 10''$ ).

This is a small low building, one of the early chapels of the Calvinistic Methodist Connexion in the county, erected in 1784. It is said that Thomas Charles of Bala preached here on more than one occasion. It was converted into a cottage about a century ago. A fragment of the pulpit remains in the inner room.—Visited, 5th September, 1913.

87. *Trwyn y Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 28''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 39''$ ).

According to the farmer who has resided in the small farmstead here for over half a century, there has been during that period no carnedd on the farm or in the neighbourhood. *Pen trwyn y garnedd* was a natural projection of rock obtruding into the road near the farm that has been recently removed. No traces of a carnedd could be perceived around.—Visited, 12th September, 1913.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

88. *Bronze palstave.* This is said to have been discovered on or close to the site of Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy (No. 65). It is now in the British Museum.

[Illustrated, fig. 151 (3).]

## Parish of GWYDDELWERN.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS) ; SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

89. *Camp on Mynydd Rhyd ddu* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 N.E. ; lat.  $53^{\circ} 1' 7''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 32''$ ).

On the fairly wide and level summit of the rough uncultivated ground to the south of Melin y wîg is a small oval-shaped enclosure which measures about 220 feet by 150 feet. The surrounding bank of earth is at present nowhere more than 3 feet high, and it is possible that the enclosure was not intended for military defence. The entrance is at the northern end ; it appears to be of simple character, but the whole site is so densely covered with heather as to make careful inspection difficult in summer.—Visited, 26th July, 1913.

## Parish of GWYDDDELWERN.

90. *Dinas melin y wig* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 N.E.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 1' 53''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 25' 4''$ ).

At the northernmost point of the parish of Gwyddelwern, where it is divided from the Denbighshire parish of Derwen by the river Clwyd, is an isolated mass of mountain limestone, roughly circular in shape, whose highest altitude is just above 900 feet. The position is commanded from all sides with the exception of a narrow valley that opens to the south-east, but it is entirely cut off from direct physical contact with the surrounding country by the deep gorge of the Clwyd, which surrounds a considerable segment of the hill on the north, and by two small streams which, starting from the Clwyd, flow on either side of the position, meet at the southern end of the rock, and disappear down the little valley already referred to. In addition to these natural defences the slopes of the hill in its entire circuit rise with sufficient abruptness to have made any attack upon the position a matter of danger and difficulty, while the whole of the slope along the gorge of the Clwyd is so steep as to render the northern side of the position impregnable to direct assault.

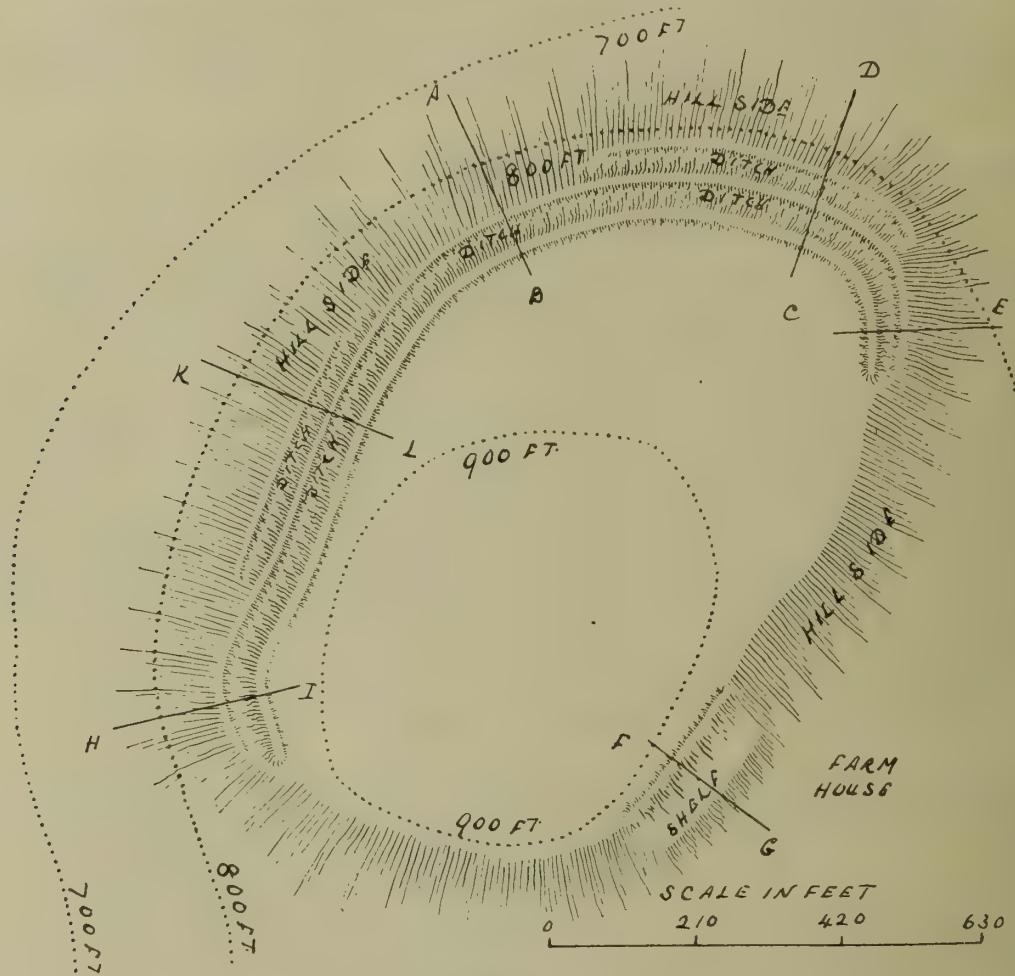


Fig. 62.

This naturally strong site has been fortified with much care and elaboration. The top of the hill is fairly level, though there is a slight fall towards the east, and at various points, more particularly on the north and west sides, the flat surface is broken by rocky prominences, which, while themselves presenting coigns of vantage whence the whole of the interior is brought under observation at the same time, prevent those on the level from having the entire camp in view at the same moment. The total area of the position is about 17 acres. For a part of the circuit of the hill it is defended by a triple line of banks and ditches, which somewhat inexplicably are less formidable in height and depth confronting the more accessible approaches, and are really magnificent on the apparently impregnable north-western fall to the Clwyd. The highest bank, that, namely, on the verge of the sloping sides of the camp, is the least massive, being not more than from 2 to 3 feet high vertically. Between this bank and the bottom of its corresponding ditch the incline has been scarped along the great part of its circuit, but the lower

## Parish of GWYDDELWERN.

ditch takes a more irregular course, and the third ditch pursues an intermittent and still more irregular line. The northern and western slopes facing the river are densely covered with trees and undergrowth, rendering the lines of circumvallation difficult to follow, but they can be gradually traced drawing together and becoming ever more formidable as they approach the south-western entrance. This appears to be fairly simple in character; the banks are clubbed and heightened, and the upward slope terminates beneath one of the natural rocky hillocks of which mention has been already made. On the north-east side is another entrance, of similar character but of less strength, having the highest bank curved inwards on each side of the approach. There is no water within the camp, but there is an abundant supply outside; nor were any indications of hut dwellings noticed. The place is known as 'Dinas,' but the name more commonly in use is 'Y Graig.' A part of the level ground towards the north entrance was said to be known as the 'burial place,' but no explanation of the name could be given. The farmstead of Clegir Ucha is built on the lower slope at the southern end of the hill, and doubtless accounts for the disappearance of some of the defensive lines at and about this point.—Visited, 24th July, 1913.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (CASTLE MOUNTS, WITH ENCLOSURES).

91. *Tomen gastell* (6 in. Ord. Sur. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W. ; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 2''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 57''$ ).

This is an interesting example of a natural height adapted to the purpose of a mound castle. A low rounded hill of rock, covered by a thin layer of earth, having a steep drop of about 15 feet to the west and a gradual slope to the level on its other sides, has been flattened on the summit to a diameter of about 23 feet. This must have constituted the tomen or mound, and it was doubtless crowned with a wooden "castle" of which, however, there is at present not the smallest indication. Below the mound is a space approximately of 100 feet by 76 feet, sloping off so gently as to make its junction with the mound and its absorption into the surrounding level matters of some uncertainty. Neither mound or bailey—if such ever existed—is now surrounded by a ditch, but if the sketch given in Edward Lhuyd's *Parochialia* (ii, 51) may be accepted, a deep fosse ran round at least three sides of the position at the end of the 17th century. The construction of the Corwen-Ruthin railway, which runs past the position, has completely altered the original site.—Visited, 30th July, 1913.

NOTE.—Doubtful as is the general character of this position as a mound-and-bailey castle, there can be little question that it represents the caput of an early barony of Gwyddelwern. Directly north of the mound (but falling into ordnance sheet 8 N.W.) are three farms called respectively Maerdy mawr, Maerdy bach, and Maerdy ucha—all probably at one time a single tribal holding, and these, together with the name of the mound itself, and the evidence afforded by Lhuyd's sketch, attest the genuineness of the ascription.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

92. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 N.W.). Ded: St. Beuno. Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural deanery of Edeirnion; townships, Bron yr on, Bodgynfel, Clegyr, Maes gwyn, Maes garnedd, Meiarth, Trebach.

The building consists of nave and chancel, both without aisles, and a modern tower crowned with a well proportioned spire at the west end. The chancel was rebuilt and enlarged in 1880, and in the course of these alterations all the windows were renewed. A built-up door of Early English style in the south wall is the only remaining architectural feature of the medieval chancel. There is no doubt that the nave is structurally of the same period, but the earliest details are three late Perpendicular windows; the other windows are square-headed of the 17th-18th century. In the north wall is a closed door of uncertain date, but it is probably not of the earliest period of the church, and may have been inserted when the Perpendicular alterations were made. There is also a door in the western wall, but the present entrance is by the recently erected tower. The roof is of unusual richness for so sequestered a parish church, and, though doubtless renewed in different places and at different times, is to all intents and purposes much the same as when it was erected over chancel and nave at the end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century. The curved tie beams have two braces above with foliations in the openings,

## Parish of GWYDDELWERN.

and bosses representing heads or other figures placed in the middle of the trusses. In the chancel the cornice to the wall plate terminates with a billet moulding. Between nave and chancel is a screen which retains in its lower parts some of the original panels; and the pulpit has crocketted finials of the same period. Some fragments of late 15th century glass are preserved in the porch windows on which the words [*or late p' a'i'ab's*] can be deciphered. The communion table, now discarded, is dated 1752. The font is octagonal, and may date from the Perpendicular reconstruction, though more probably it is later; it has no drain. The churchyard is rounded on its eastern side, and more or less square on its western. A square stone post has served to support a sundial, but the dial plate has disappeared. A fine yew tree flourishes on the south side of the enclosure, having a girth of 15 feet at a yard above ground. Close by is a handsome 18th century table tombstone with a Welsh inscription, and a profusion of carved emblems. The oldest tombstone noticed was dated 1688. At least six low foot stones with semi-circular openings for kneeling, so common in the churchyards of Edeirnion, were counted.

*Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph* (Thomas), 1909, ii, 153; Glynne 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 270.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

93. *Ffynnon Beuno* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 N.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 41''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 41''$ ).

This spring, the sacred well of the parish, sometimes called 'Ffynnon Ucha,' now rises within a sunken rectangular slate-lined enclosure about 6 feet long by 5 feet broad, and contains normally nearly 3 feet of very dirty water. Four modern steps lead down to it. The water is maintained at a certain height by a small hole on the west side which allows an escape on a level with the lowest step. When in wet weather this escape is insufficient the water flows into a square slate cistern. No traditions connected with a cult of the well could be gleaned.—Visited, 30th July, 1913.

About 500 yards to the south is another spring called *Ffynnon Gwern Beuno*, otherwise *Ffynnon Fair* (*Our Lady's Well*), otherwise *Ff. Wen* (? *the holy well*), otherwise *Ff. Isa*. Its association with the name of the Virgin tends to show the rise of a competing source of beneficence, and the possible decline of reverence for the original Celtic saint. It is at any rate equally barren of curative traditions.—Visited, 8th October, 1914.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

94. *Capel Aelhaiarn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 2 S.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 2' 32''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 21' 48''$ ).

The extinct chapelry, and perhaps once independent parish of Llanaelhaiarn is now incorporated with the parish of Gwyddelwern; the chapel of St. Aelhaiarn is traditionally said to have stood in a meadow behind, that is south-east of, the Old Blue Bell inn, where is a yew tree of no great age. No foundations of any kind are visible. 'Pandy'r capel,' 'the chapel fulling mill,' is the field on the opposite side of the road. *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph* (Thomas), 1911, ii, 153.—Visited, 8th October, 1914.

95. *Cae maen lwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 2 S.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 2' 5''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 47''$ ).

This is the name of a field on the farm of Hafotty boeth, the occupier of which said that the field was still known by the name, but the boulder was destroyed some years before his tenancy commenced.—Visited, 8th October, 1914.

96. *Cae garreg lwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 2 S.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 2' 13''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 2''$ ).

Partly in the eastern hedge of Cae garreg lwyd, but mainly in the next field to the east, is a large irregular boulder about 3 feet high, 8 feet long, and 5 feet broad.—Visited, 8th October, 1914.

*Cae garreg y fotty* was also visited on the same day, but the name was not known, nor was any specially conspicuous stone observed within it. Tithe Schedule, No. 955.

## Parish of GWYDDDELWERN.

97. *Cae'r domen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 2 S.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 2' 11''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 5''$ ).

This field is directly behind the farmhouse of Hafod las, and not quite in the position shown in the tithe map. Tithe Schedule, No. 952. There is nothing of archæological interest.—Visited, 8th October, 1914.

98. *Tir maen llwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 N.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 1' 20''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 23' 20''$ ).

This is a very stony field, but it is not probable that any of the boulders are of archæological import. Tithe Schedule, No. 253.—Visited, 31st July, 1913.

99. *Maen llwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 N.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 1' 17''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 21' 24''$ ).

According to enquiries made at the farmhouse called 'Cefn maen llwyd,' there are no stones of size near the house except the boulder, 190 yards distant on a ridge to the north, from which the house is named. The stone is about 4 feet high.—Visited, 31st July, 1913.

100. *Maen Gwenhidw* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 59' 53''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 50''$ ).

Edward Lhuyd (*Parochialia*, ii, 50), gives an account and sketch of a cromlech which he calls 'Maen Gwenhidw,' and places in Maes gwyn township, Gwyddelwern. Nothing could be learned of this object until Mr. Edward Lloyd Jones of Maes gwyn y felin on 8th October, 1914, informed the Inspector that his late father, Edward Jones (died February, 1914, aged 84), used to speak of a cromlech that formerly stood in the field called Cae'r garreg (Tithe Schedule, No. 430), where are no traces of such a structure at present.

101.—(i.) *Cae'r garreg* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 7''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 21' 49''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 45.—Visited, 21st October, 1914.

(ii.) *Cae'r garreg llwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 10''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 51''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 1,003.—Visited, 30th July, 1913.

(iii.) *Cae'r maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 7 N.E.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 46''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 25' 57''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 876.—Visited, 24th July, 1913.

It is probable that the feature which gave rise to the name in each of these instances was a natural boulder possessing no antiquarian significance.

102. *Cae'r groes* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 59' 50''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 44''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 425.—Visited, 29th July, 1913.

The situation of this field precludes the suggestion that a cross once stood within it, or at an adjacent cross road, unless it was the style of cross that used to be placed upon land that was the subject of legal proceedings; the field is immediately north of Maes gwyn y felin farmstead.—Visited, 29th July, 1913.

103. *Caenog* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 12''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 21' 25''$ ).

Amongst the landed possessions of the Cistercian house of Strata Marcella, or Ystrad Marchell (near Welshpool, Co. Montgomery: see *Inventory* of that county, No. 934) was a property called 'Esgyngaenog,' which was purchased by Ithel, abbot of the house, from 'Heylewit' for two and a half pounds of silver, and the same was confirmed to the abbot and convent by Meredith ap Howel, lord of Edeirnion, in the year 1176. No boundaries are specified in the documents. The name Esgyngaenog implies an ascent (*esgyn*, *upward*), and north-east of Caenog farm is another farm called 'Highgate.' We may therefore surmise that the land of the two farms was comprised in the same grant, especially as a modus of 10s. is due from both farms in lieu of tithe. See for the documents *Mont. Coll.*, 1871, iv, 21.—Visited, 21st October, 1914.

## Parish of GWYDDELWERN.

104. *Bryn Saith Marchog* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 2 S.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 2' 23''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 31''$ ).

Saith Marchog was the seat of one of the most ancient of the smaller Welsh chieftains, and between the farmhouses of Bryn and Llwyn y brain is an eminence which seems to be the Hill of the Seven Knights. 'Ioruert Saithmarchaug' is one of the witnesses to the deed, dated 1176, by which Meredith ap Howel, lord of Edeirnion, confirmed the land of Esgyngaenog to the abbot and convent of Ystrad Marchell (see preceding art.).—Visited, 8th October, 1914.

## Parish of LLANABER.\*

## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

105. *Carneddau Hengwm* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 49''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 30''$ ).

These are two large stone cairns, situated upon the high ground that rises from one to two miles behind the coast line. They are not visible from the sea, being withdrawn a sufficient distance from the margin of the plateau.

It is somewhat surprising that no mention is made of these structures by the earlier antiquaries, Robert Vaughan or Edward Lhuyd. They were visited by both Pennant and Fenton at the end of the 18th and commencement of the 19th centuries, and from their accounts we gather that the cairns showed much the same appearances of having been rifled as they do at present, though it is possible that the last hundred years has seen a further considerable removal of the smaller stones for the enclosure of mountain pastures. The Rev. E. L. Barnwell in *Archæologia*

\* There is no record of the existence in this parish of townships (the Welsh *trefydd*, usually spoken of in English as *trevs*), but, as was the case in many other parts of Wales, the names of the patrimonial holdings known as "weles" (Welsh pl. *gwelyau*) continued in common use for many generations. A part of the parish of Llanaber, however, was at one time called "Maenol Llanaber," though it is strange to find that the form taken by the name of the dwelling of the chief man of the maenol, i.e., "Vaenol" or "Y faenol," usual enough in Welsh districts, has not survived in the parish.

In the Public Record Office (*Duchy of Lancaster: Ancient Deeds, L 3569*) is a grant of the year 1294 of lands in Maenawl Llanaber and half of the villula (a term doubtless intended to signify a small trev, a tref-let) of Caer Hepnewid, made by Madoc son of Llewelyn, prince of Wales, to a Bleddy Vychan, probably of the family of Cors y gedol. The particulars of the grant are as follows:—*Universis Christianis fidelibus presentes litteras inspecturis et audituris, Madocus filius Lewelin princeps Wallie dominus Snaudon. Salutem. Noveritis quod nos pro nobis et heredibus nostris Bledino Vychan et heredibus suis dedimus et concessimus ac presenti carta confirmamus medietatem de Maenawl Lann Aber in Ardudwy, exc[ep]tis terris] decani de villa eadem. Item, [m]edietatem villule de Kaer Hepnewid cum omnibus predictis terris, etc.* The witnesses are Tudur ab Gronw, our steward, Gronw vychan, his brother, Gruffin ab Tudyr, Tudur ab Karwed, Griffin ab Rys, Deikyn crach, D'd ab Rissiard, Ieuaf ab Ririt, and others. Given at Penant Machno Sunday next before Christmas Day, 1294. Pennant Machno is the modern Penmachno.

It may be remarked that the charter is issued by a son of Llewelyn ap Gruffudd of whom nothing is otherwise known. Maenol Llanaber was probably that portion of the parish immediately around and perhaps comprising the parish church, unless indeed the latter came within the lands of the dean. Caer Hepnewid baffles all attempts at its identification, but it may have been the name of the fortified position called Castell on the hill above the village of Llanaber (No. 120 post). "Hepnewid" seems to contain the element "newydd" (new); or it may possibly be a distortion of the common Welsh personal name Ednyfed.

As regards the *gwelyau*, or "weles," an interesting incident concerned with the economic history of several of them may be set forth.

At the time of the survey of the county in the 7th year of Henry V. (1420), printed in the 1837 Record Commission's volume known as the *Record of Caernarvon*, p. 277, part of the parish was divided into four weles called Wele yr offeiriad, Wele wyrion Trahaiarn, Wele bach, and Wele wyrion Gwythir. At that date the four weles were "native" or "bond" land, that is they were burdened with certain exactions and disabilities which were not due from "free" lands.

Just one hundred years later the same four weles are again met with in the extremely interesting circumstances exhibited in the following document:—

*Public Record Office: Court of Requests; Proceedings. Henry VIII. Bundle 8; No. 133.*

To the King, our sovereign lord—In moste humble wise sheweth unto your highnes your pore subjects and dayly oratours Ednevet ap Howell, Ien'n ap Howell ap David ap Yerworthe, Gryffith ap Li'n ap Ieu'n and all other your grace's tenautes and freholders of your Towne of Llanaber to the nomber of iiiii [300] parsones w'thin the comote of Ardydwey in your countye of M'yonneth in Northwalys. That where they and their

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*Cambrensis* for 1893 (IV, iv, 91) is the first to furnish a more or less precise account of their appearance. He says:—

“These two cists lie nearly north and south, parallel to and near each other. The largest is about 150 feet long at present, but has evidently been much longer, and is, in this respect alone, unequalled in Wales.

The smaller of the two cists has been almost entirely denuded of its upper stones, so that the various embedded cists, more or less perfect, are visible. Plate 5 [not here reproduced] presents the interior of one of the most perfect, it is nearly rectangular, measuring 6 feet by 4; but the slabs are thin, and seem to have been brought from the rocks below, where a modern but unsuccessful slate-quarry has been opened. At the southern extremity is a more important cist or chamber surmounted with a massive capstone, and having much more substantial sides than the exposed cists. The capstone lies nearly east and west; but which was the original entrance cannot be ascertained until the choked up ground is cleared out. The cists could not, apparently, have had capstones of the same massive character, as their more slender walls would not have supported such a pressure; and some remains of them would probably have been left, which is not the case. The chamber that does bear the large capstone was probably the resting-place of some distinguished member of the community. What may have been the original length of this cist it is impossible to say, as it has certainly furnished materials for the wall built near it.

“As regards, however, the larger cist, the same uncertainty exists, although the wall already mentioned is carried over it, and cuts off its northern extremity. This extremity in its present state is marked by the important remains of a large chamber, some of the upright stones of which are still in their places. The height of these stones (about 9 feet) is such that if the cist terminated here, its termination must have been too abrupt, and could not have gradually sloped down to the ground, as does the southern termination. That the original mound was carried farther north than the ruined cromlech can hardly be doubted, especially as the stones would be useful for the wall, and the ground would at the same time be cleared. In Plate 6 [not reproduced here] will be seen the capstone, or one of the capstones. One capstone would not have been sufficient. It is much more massive than the uprights, as might be expected, but far inferior in that respect to either of the great covering stones still remaining in the southern part of this and the extremity of the smaller cists.

“On the other side of the wall is a chamber surmounted by a large capstone. Pennant’s account represents a very different state to that which at present exists. He speaks of ‘a large cromlech supported with upright stones. It is now converted into a retreat for a shepherd, who has placed stone seats within, and formed a chimney through the loose stones above.’ By ‘cromlech’ he means here the capstone only, although he has just before employed the word in its ordinary sense. At present the capstone is supported by the walls of the chamber, consisting of dry masonry, which must have been built before removal of the upright slabs Pennant speaks of. The regular form of the chamber, and perhaps the character of the masonry, point to late work; but there was certainly a gallery of approach of about ten or eleven feet long, inferior layers of which are still in position. The remains of a broken seat are still lying within the chamber, and may be part of what Pennant saw. Nothing remains of the chimney. Pennant speaks of a third cromlech which has entirely vanished . . .

“It may be confidently stated that nowhere throughout Wales or England does there exist any monument equal to that of Carneddau Hengwm.”

ancestors whose heires they be, and all other whose estate they have tyme out of mynde have byn sev’ally seased of dyvers p’cells of lande in your Towne of Llanaber aforesaid amountyng to the more and greater parte of the landes w’tin your said towne in their demeine as of ffee, and helde the same p’myses of the late pryncyptour of famous memorie, Kynge Henry the viith deceased late kynge of Ingland as of his pryncipalitie of North Wales by the name of foure Gwelys, whiche is to saie ffloure restyng place, whiche be named Gweley yffryad, Gweley wyryon Trahayarn, Gweley weyryon Gwether and Gweley bagh, and by the rente of xj li. vii s. 1 d. ob., and also doing certen bonde s’vyces for the same landes and tenements. And afterwarde the said late kynge Henry the viith for the acceptable s’vyce of his subjectes of your countyes of Anglesey and Carn’von and of your said countye of Meryonneth in North wales aforesaid done to his highnes, of his especyal grace and mere mocyon and with the advisement of his councell, by his l’re patentes sealed with his grete seale of Ingland beringe date the thirde daie of Marche in the xxvith yere of his moste victorious reigne graunted for hym and his heires unto all and singuler the tenaunts and inhabytauntes of your said countyes of Anglesey, Carn’van and M’yoneth that it shoulde be lofull to them and eny of them and their heires and the heires of every of them to gyve alyen demyse and lett all their landes tenements and heredytaments in the countyes aforesaid being then holden in bondage as is aforsaid at their will in fee symple, fee tayle, for terme of lyffe, yeres, or otherwise at their pleasure, and that every bonde man w’tin your said countyes and their children shoulde be freely and clerely by vertue of the same l’re patentes manamysed [manumitted] and sett at their lybertye, paying ther olde accustomed rentes and other releases due to your grace for their landes, lyke as they dyd and were used and accustomed to doo before tyme for the same landes for all maner of exac’cons, other s’vyces and customes as other freholders in the said shires then dyd, which relyses be nowe more encreased to your graceis use then [than] they were when they were in bondage as by the same l’re patentes more at large dothe appere, th’enrolment wherof restyth amone other your graceis recordes of the said xxvith yere of the reigne of the said late kynge Henry the viith in your graceis honorable Courte of Chauncerye, which lybertye and fredom your Oratours have had, occupied, and peaceably enjoyed ev’syns the said graunte to them in forme aforesaid made untyll nowe of late that one John Powys s’unt [servant] unto your grace of his covetous mynde intending the utter undoing of your said bedemen hathe obteyned of your highnes a lease for terme of yeres of your graceis rentes of your said towne of Llanaber, by colour wherof the said John Powis being a man of greate power and substance dothe gretelye vexe and troble your said oratours by making of wrongfull entrees and demanding of them other rents and customes then [than] be expressed in the said l’re patentes, so that your said oratours cannot peaceably enjoye their said landes according to the tenour, purpote, and effecte of the said l’re patentes, contrarye to all right, equyte and good consequence. In consideracion wherof, etc.

The above document deals with matters which are outside the scope of this Commission, and which to a certain extent have already been a subject of enquiry by the Royal Commission on Land in Wales; but the glimpse thus afforded of the economic condition of the inhabitants of Llanaber at the commencement of the 16th century, now for the first time printed, throws considerable light upon the mentality of the people of Merionethshire at the commencement of the modern period which cannot but have been reflected in the popular views held of the ancient monuments by which such a community were surrounded and to which they in turn contributed their quota.

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The passage of time has rendered Mr. Barnwell's "gallery of approach" within the larger cairn less recognisable; and it is not easy at present to trace any plan or arrangement relating the several cists within the cairns to a central burial or to each other. All the cists would seem to be at the same level, which is probably the level of the surrounding ground, the height of the cairns not admitting of a second tier of cists. As no finds of any description are recorded as having been made within the cairns it is probable that the ill-usage to which they have been subjected occurred at a far distant period.—Visited, August, 1913.

106. *Carnedd on Llawllech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 19''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 20''$ ).

This mound of stones on the summit of the ridge of high land called Llawllech is 1,689 feet above Ordnance datum. It is 9 feet high and about 40 yards in circumference. Most of the stones are small in size. The mound is intersected by the boundary wall between the farms of Hendre Eirian and Sylvaen, and may have been drawn upon for the construction of the wall; but there are no indications that the cairn has been rifled.—Visited, August, 1913.

107. *Carnedd on Bwlch Rhiwgyr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 37''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 3''$ ).

This is a much denuded cairn on the slope of Bwlch Rhiwgyr, 1,500 feet above sea level, and about 10 yards from the mountain path. There are no appearances of a cist, or indeed any clear indications that the cairn is sepulchral.—Visited, August, 1913.

108. *Carnedd on Llwyn on bach* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 16''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 1''$ ).

A mound of small stones, 5 feet high and 25 yards in circumference, standing in a field called 'Y Garnedd.' Most of these stones appear to be field clearings, but the base, partially embedded in turf to a height of some two feet, seems ancient. Tithe Schedule, No. 844. The neighbouring cottages, Garnedd ucha and issa, (Nos. 816, 817) doubtless derive their names from the cairn.—Visited, August, 1913.

109. *Cae Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 0''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 5''$ ).

This is a field on the farm of Cwm Mynach (Tithe Schedule, No. 1768) which is now known to the farmer as Cae Garw. About a dozen large heaps of stones of different sizes are scattered at irregular intervals over the field; their height varies roughly between 3 feet and 6 feet. It is now impossible to identify the original carnedd, if one ever did exist here.—Visited, August, 1913.

110. *Cae Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 54''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 56''$ ).

A field on the farm of Hendre Eirian. The surface is much disturbed. There are several large stones in the field, nearly covered by the turf. Tithe Schedule, No. 50.—Visited, August, 1913.

111. *Garnedd Wen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 48''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 40''$ ).

A field on the farm of Sylvaen. A large round whitish stone about 4 feet by 2 feet 6 inches has recently been removed in clearing an adjoining field, and the name may have arisen therefrom. The field name is unknown to the occupier. (Tithe Schedule, No. 1064.) Garnedd Ucha and Issa, two neighbouring holdings, also probably took their name from the above. On Garnedd Ucha, however, at a point north of Coed Sylvaen, the wall of the field is immensely thick—some 12 or 14 feet—and a carnedd may be represented by this thickening. The height averages about 7 feet. The stones at the base are mostly very large, the others smaller. (Tithe Schedule, Nos. 1091 and 1093.)—Visited, August, 1913.

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112. *Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 46''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 44''$ ).

A field on the farm of Hendre Forion, the above name of which is not known to the occupier. There is a large heap of small stones in a field near the house. Tithe Schedule, No. 1544.—Visited, August, 1913.

NOTE.—The name is probably derived from Hendref wyrion—; the stock-names of Trahaiarn and Gwythir appear in the Survey of 7 Hen. V (*Rec. Caern.*, 277).

113. *Cae Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 11''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 20''$ ).

This is an arable field on the farm of Hafod ucha (Tithe Schedule, No. 1504), containing two large heaps of stones. They are moss-grown in places, and have a general look of antiquity, but are possibly only clearings of stones from the fields.—Visited, August, 1913.

114. *Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 0''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 10''$ ).

In a field of the farm of Garthgell is a pile of stones, mostly of large size, of the height of about 3 feet. Tithe Schedule, No. 1730.—Visited, August, 1913.

## DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

115. *Fron Wen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 55''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 45''$ ).

There is what appears to be an old standing stone close against the north corner of Fron Wen, measuring about 6 feet by 2 feet by 5 inches thick. There are no traditions connected with it.—Visited, August, 1913.

116. *Cerrig Arthur* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 56''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 34''$ ).

About 200 yards north-east of Fron Wen farm house, now appurtenant to the farm called 'Sylvaen,' are two standing stones, 4 feet apart, which are known locally as 'the Druids' Stones,' but by the occupier of the farm they are called 'Cerrig Arthur,' 'Arthur's Stones.' They stand east and west, the stone to the east being about 4 feet 3 inches, by 3 feet 3 inches and 1 foot 6 inches thick, upon a grassy plateau of about an acre in area; around them are traces of a circle of about 60 feet diameter, having six stones standing upon the circumference, but now much buried in the earth, and much smaller than the standing stones.—Visited, August, 1913.

## DIVISION Id (STONE CIRCLES).

117. *Stone Circles* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 16''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 4''$ ; 32 N.W., long.  $52^{\circ} 46' 19''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 5''$ ).

On the above indicated sites are two stone circles which were carefully examined and surveyed by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, F.S.A., in May, 1919; a full report, accompanied by elaborate ground plans, appears in *Arch. Camb.*, 1920, pp. 99–133. Practically the only discoveries made consisted of a few fragments of pottery, the greater number from the northern of the two circles. Mr. Crawford's description of the potsherds is as follows:—

"They consist of thirteen fragments, the largest a triangular piece 3 in. by 2 in. by  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. thick. They are of uniform texture, reddish-yellow on the outside, the outer surface being rough and flaky, brown on the inside. The inner surface is quite smooth. The section of the edges shows that the red colouring permeates less than the brown. A small rim fragment 1 in. by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. shows that the lip was flat-topped (width  $\frac{1}{2}$  in.) the inner section being straight and the outer curving slightly outwards. All are pieces of the same vessel, and the clay of which it was made was mixed with small gritty fragments of pounded stone." Mr. Crawford sums up the results of the excavation as follows:—"The only evidence bearing on the original purpose of these two circles

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was the discovery of an empty grave in the middle of the smaller [northern] circle\*. Both circles were surrounded by a ditch with a bank on the *inside*, and not, as is usually the case, on the *outside*. The larger circle consisted of at least fifty stones arranged in a circle. There is no evidence of the presence of any stones at all in the [northern] circle. Positive evidence of the date of construction is lacking, but from the character of the potsherds found in the [northern] circle, it was probably in use during the Bronze Age. Not a fragment of bone was found anywhere in the excavations, although a total area of 756 square metres was uncovered."

**118. Cairn-circle** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 45''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 4''$ ).

Mr. Crawford also examined what he terms a cairn-circle which occupies a position about half a mile direct south of the circles last described,† and about 300 yards south-east of the great cairns Carneddau Hengwm.

"It consists," he reports (*ib.*, p. 113), "of a complete circle of upright and leaning stones, the diameter being between 7 and 8 metres. The circle is nearly, but not quite, a true circle. Within the outermost ring were many loose stones, and some more firmly fixed which appeared to be arranged concentrically. In the middle was an oblong depression. . . . We dug over the whole of the central area down to the undisturbed yellow soil, but found absolutely nothing. . . . I came to the conclusion that a large cairn had originally existed, but that it had been removed to build the wall round the field."

"To the north of the cairn-circle was a low cairn. . . . It consisted of about a foot of loose stones lying on the undisturbed yellow soil. Later, the whole rectangular area of 48 square metres was dug over by workmen down to the undisturbed soil, and again without result. . . . It has been suggested that the cairn was the base of a peat-stack of comparatively modern date. This cannot, however, be the explanation of the equally barren cairn-circle close by, which is undoubtedly a prehistoric monument."

**DIVISION Ia (CIRCLES, ETC.).**

**119. Cyttiau Gwyddelod** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 55''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 2''$ ).

About 100 yards north-north-east of Caerau, adjoining a group of sheepfolds and forming part of them, are the remains of primitive structures called by the farmers 'Cyttiau Gwyddelod,' the Irishmen's or woodmen's huts. One is in tolerably good preservation, and contains a chamber about 7 feet by 7 feet by 6 feet, and a recess at the north end 5 feet by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the ground level. These are roofed with enormous slabs of stone, one of which measures 11 feet by 7 feet, and a maximum thickness of about 1 foot. There appear to have been two chambers originally; one is in ruins, the covering slab being 7 feet by 6 feet.—Visited, August, 1913.

**DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).**

**120. Castell Llanaber** (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 25''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 6''$ ).

This is a roughly rectangular enclosure situated about 1,000 feet above Ordnance datum, immediately above the old road running from Sylvaen to Llanaber at the point called Bwlch Llan. The surrounding walls of the camp appear as immense heaps of stone of the height of 6 feet in places. The area enclosed is about 350 square yards. The entrance appears to have been on the south. Outside to the north-east is a grassy mound roughly following the line of wall. There are also what would seem to be the remains of a wall running diagonally across the enclosure, or it might have belonged to a ruined hut. A small stream skirts the eastern side of the camp.—Visited, August, 1913.

\* It is by no means certain that the discovery made was that of a grave. Mr. Crawford's account is:—"For the purpose of ascertaining whether any burial was made at the centre of the circle, an area of 12 by 8 metres was pegged out and the turf taken off, and one spit of soil was removed from the whole area . . . . The soil was carefully loosened from the sides of the pit and removed. It was always possible to distinguish the filling from the undisturbed earth at the sides. The whole of the filling was cleared out everywhere down to the undisturbed bottom, and absolutely nothing was found! I came to the conclusion that the pit was a grave, and that the acids in the soil had completely dissolved the bones of the skeleton, if there ever had been one." A horse-shoe, "probably quite modern," was found in the same circle.

† Mr. Crawford states that this cairn-circle, and the low, flat cairn close by, lie 1 mile 150 yards due south of the southern circle. This is not quite accurate; the spot is as above indicated.





FIG. 63. LLANDDWYWE IS Y GRAIG: CRAIG Y DINAS (No. 199); plan.



FIG. 64. LLANABER: PEN DINAS (No. 122); plan.



FIG. 65A. LLANFAIR: DINAS PORCHELLYN (No. 337); plan.

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121. *Bryn y Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 52''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 0''$ ).

A finely-situated elliptical enclosure, 180 feet from north to south and 120 feet from east to west. The camp is enclosed by a low wall or rampart of stones, grass-grown in places. At the northern end of the enclosure is a huge mound of stones, the origin of which is uncertain. The enclosure occupies the summit of a precipitous eminence which rises as a spur of the Diphwys range. Except towards the east, the sides of the hill below the rampart are very steep. There are no appearances of a ditch, nor of any scarping of the slopes. The position is immediately above the old road from Bont ddu to Harlech which passes through Bwlch Rhiwgyr, and, standing as it does at the junction of two valleys, it commands the approaches from the Mawddach to the long mountain ridge which divided this region from Ardudwy. No water was observed near the camp.—Visited, August, 1913.

122. *Pen dinas* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 2''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 56''$ ).

Situated upon the verge of the high ground which rises behind the coast line, and at the height of about 750 feet above sea level, is an oval enclosure formed by a rampart of earth and stones, comprising an area of a little more than half an acre. The interior diameters are, north and south 200 feet, east and west 150 feet. The camp is defended at the northern and southern ends by outer ditches which in some places are 5 feet deep. The eastern and western sides have no ditches, and the enclosing banks are only from 2 to 3 feet high. There were entrances probably at the north-west and south-west ends. A stream flows near the camp on the south side in a deep ravine.—Visited, August, 1913.

This camp was carefully examined and planned by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, F.S.A., in the course of his archaeological investigations into the prehistoric remains in the neighbourhood of Carneddau Hengwm to which reference has already been made. He says :—

“ The fortress of Pen Dinas stands on a bluff of high ground sloping steeply in every direction except the east, where it is continued as a ridge towards the mountain. The top of this bluff is crowned with a roughly circular rampart, highest on the east, where the position is most open to attack. This circular innermost rampart is formed of a mass of earth held up between two retaining walls of rough stone masonry. On the north and west another earthen rampart has been added to the first for additional protection. This, too, was originally strengthened by a wall built of larger boulders, less carefully set than the other two, less well preserved now, and standing upon the outer side only of the rampart. It is a wall of defence rather than a retaining wall. Between the inner and the outer ramparts ran a deep ditch, which was continued all round the hill outside the inner rampart. A second ditch protected the outer rampart. Remains of yet a third line of defence can still be traced on the west. They consist of the ruins of a wall built of large boulders. . . . On the ground outside the fortress, on the north of it, are the remains of many similar rough stone walls. Two of these consist of rectangular enclosures which, for lack of a better word, I have called *rooms*.”

The results of the excavations, and the conclusions at which Mr. Crawford arrived, are thus stated :—

“ As regards the dating of these different structures but little can be said. Had even a single sherd of pottery been found in the right place (the bottom of the ditch) it would probably have been possible to assign a date with confidence to the fortress. Had even a characteristic single sherd been found on the surface, one would have known that the people of a certain period had been there ; and as only one set of people appear to have used the fortress, that would have helped considerably. As it is, one can only say with assurance that the rampart of the fortress was made after the introduction of iron. This much is *proved* by the discovery of the iron rivet under the inner retaining wall at the bottom of the deposit of black earth. It is highly probable on a priori grounds that the fortress was built before the Roman conquest of Wales. Had it been made afterwards, potsherds would almost certainly have been found, as on other sites of the Romano-British period in Wales. Moreover, it seems unlikely that a fortress of this kind would have been necessary, or permissible, after the conquest. Again, the method of construction of the retaining walls and the well-planned system of outer defences recalls the oppida of the La Tène period in France and in Somersetshire. That people of La Tène culture were once in this neighbourhood is proved by the discovery of some bronze bits “ near the Carneddau Hengwm ” [see Illustration to No. 136B below]. It may, therefore, be said that although positive evidence is lacking, it is highly probable that the fortress of Pen Dinas was constructed between 450 B.C. and the Christian era.

“ Whether structures outside the fortress, including of course the rooms, form part of the original design, and whether they are contemporaneous with it or not is uncertain. I incline myself to think that they are contemporaneous with it. . . . They [the rooms] were certainly not earlier than the fortress, and if not contemporaneous, must therefore have been later.”

The period assigned by Mr. Crawford to the construction of this earthwork, namely the five centuries immediately preceding the Christian era, is one that commends itself not only for the reasons which he has set forth, but also for the testimony afforded by the similarity of Pen dinas to many of the hill forts in other

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parts of Wales which have been described in the Commission's volumes of Inventories. But the contemporaneous date assigned by Mr. Crawford to the rectangular enclosures immediately outside the banks of Pen dinas is perhaps open to question.

[Illustrated, figs. 2 and 64].

123. *Egryn Fort* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 31 S.E. and 32 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 52''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 5''$ ).

In the course of the surveying and excavation work at Pen dinas (preceding art.) Mr. Crawford reports that he discovered\* a small promontory fort on the north† side of Ceunant Egryn (Egryn Gorge). His account of it is as follows :—

"The fort is impregnable on the south, but on the north it is easily commanded by high and steeply rising ground. The rampart is single, and consists of a double row of large boulders carefully set in position, and retaining a mass of smaller stones within. On the east the outer row of retaining boulders is very well preserved, and presents quite a striking appearance. One of them is about a metre high, and looks rather like an ordinary mile-stone. . . . Within the area is a small platform, artificially levelled out on the side of the hill. . . . To this platform an ancient trackway led from the west, still clearly recognisable as a depression in the ground. A rectangular area of 108 square metres was pegged out, and the whole dug over down to the undisturbed soil. An iron ring was found and a small fire-pit. The ring is probably a terret ring, through which the reins of a horse were passed. If so, it is evidence of the date of the fort, since these terret-rings are usually attributed to the La Tène period. One side is slightly flattened for attachment to the harness. . . . Many beach pebbles were found, some of which had evidently been used for hammering. No pottery, no bones and no burnt clay was discovered. One piece of flint was found. The platform was evidently the habitation-site or 'hut-circle' where the occupants of the fortress lived. The absence of pottery is very surprising."

The site of this supposed fort on the precipitous slope of a narrow ravine that in the prehistoric period must have been absolutely impassable, precludes the idea that this was a defensive position of early man. Though close to the sea, it could not have been intended as a look-out post as it is placed too far up the gorge to permit of but the narrowest prospect. The earth and stone banks were probably intended to keep animals from straying down the dangerous slopes of the ravine.— Visited, 12th October, 1920.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

124. *Egryn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 44''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 55''$ ).

The present house, usually known as Egryn Abbey, probably dates from the latter half of the 16th or early years of the 17th century. It is built upon the lines, and has probably incorporated some of the features of an earlier semi-ecclesiastical edifice, while it still more plainly bears marks of alterations and improvements intended to adapt it to modern conditions. It is probable that the original structure was built around a small square turfed enclosure, or cloister, of which the present house forms the southern quarter. Considerable changes were made about seventy years ago, in which much of the eastern wing, where was placed the chapel, disappeared. The west wing remains, and contains the domestic portion of the house. The most ancient part of the existing buildings is to be found in the northern wing, where the windows have retained their stone mullions and square labels. The kitchen, or refectory, with dormitory above, was in the south wing. This wing has been extended by the addition of a roughly constructed building of later date, and what was previously an outer doorway thus became an inner doorway and was blocked up. The wall facing the courtyard also has a blocked up doorway, having a rounded arch ; and there are three small square windows with moulded oak mullions. The original deeply recessed window openings, with seats, were much larger. The fireplace is about 9 feet in width, with massive breasts. The ceiling has thick oak beams, the joists with chamfered edges. In daily use in the

\* Mr. Crawford remarks that the existence of another camp in addition to and near Pen dinas is proved by a "seventeenth-century description of the neighbourhood," which, however, he does not more closely particularise. If the reference is to Mr. Robert Vaughan's brief description of the county (*Arch. Camb.*, 1850, II, i, 200), what Mr. Vaughan says is "In this town [Barmouth, then in the parish of Llanaber] there is a military fence or trench cast about the top of the hill and called Dinas Gortin." Dinas Gortin or Cortin is another name for Pen dinas.

† On p. 99 Mr. Crawford has inadvertently stated the Egryn Fort to be 300 yards S.S.E. of Pen dinas. This should be S.S.W.

‡ According to the photograph accompanying Mr. Crawford's paper (op. p. 110) the interior side of the ring appears to be perfectly circular. It is 1.3 inch in interior circumference.



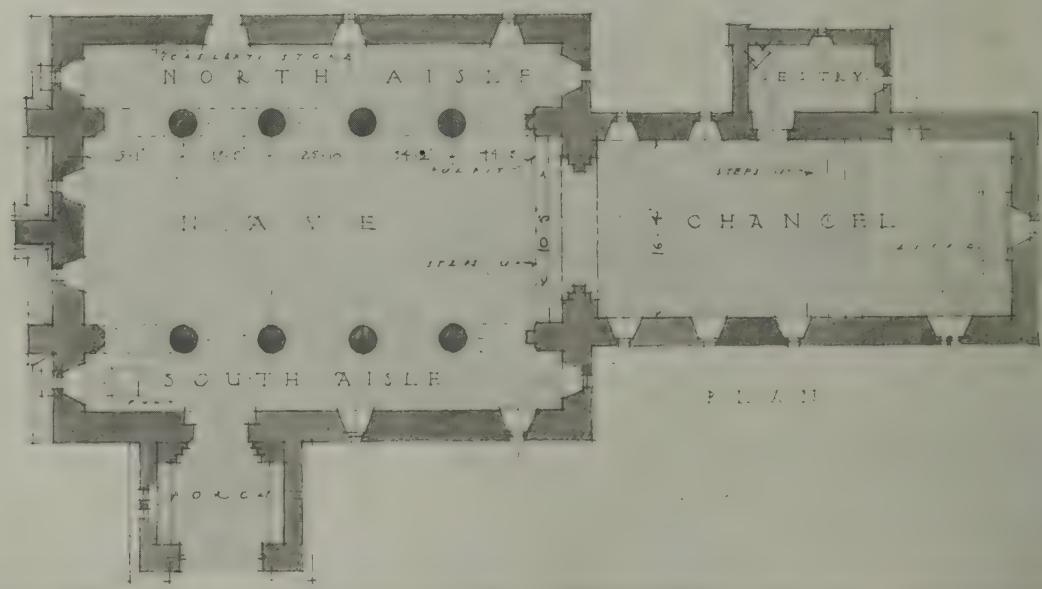
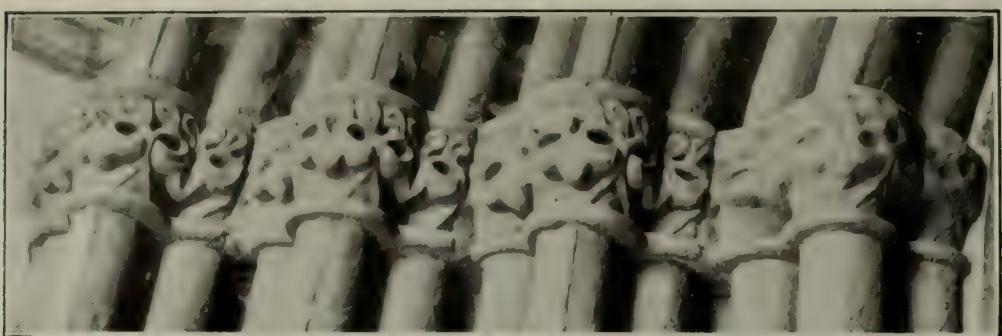


FIG. 65. LLANABER: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 125); plan, section and elevation.



i.



ii.



iii.



iv.



v.



vi.

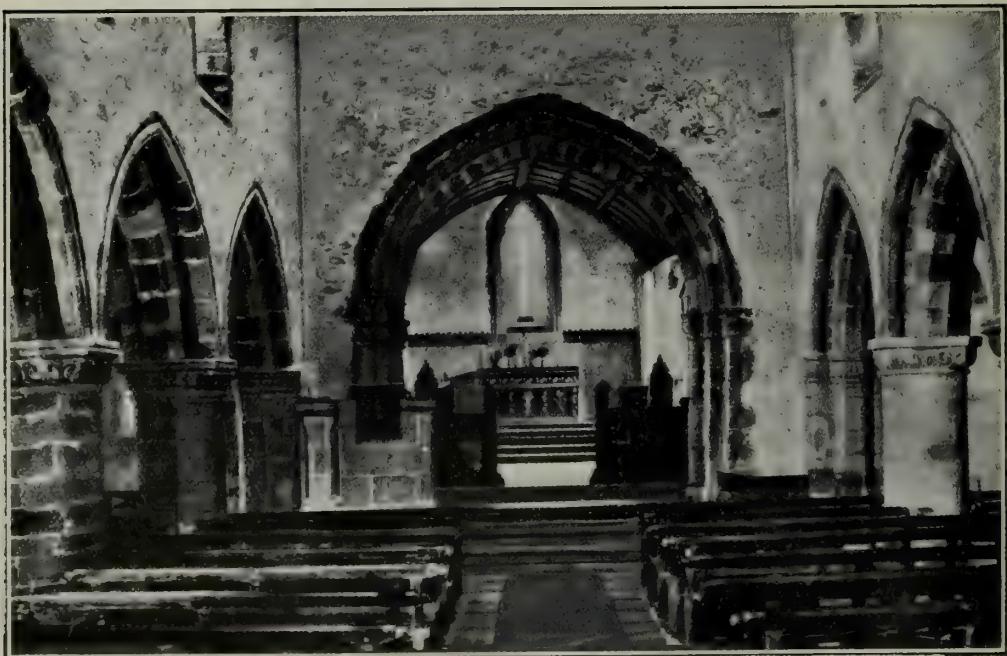


FIG. 66. LLANABER: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 125);  
i. carving at west door; ii.-v. details of capitals; vi. interior of nave, looking east.

## Parish of LLANABER.

present house-kitchen is a fine oak table, 9 feet long, which is regarded as a relic of pre-Reformation times, but is more likely to date from the Elizabethan period.—Visited, August, 1913.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1910, VI, viii, 288 and 405.

NOTE.—Egryn has been usually regarded as a grange belonging to the Cistercian Abbey of Cymmer, and even so late as the meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association in August, 1919, it was stated that nothing was known of the foundation. It is, however, possible to set forth its true purpose, and the date of its establishment.

In the Public Record Office series of *Papal Letters* (iv, 363) is the following:—"1391, ii Id., Oct., St. Peter's, Rome. To Gruffut ap Llewelin of Kynwre [recte Kynwric], donsel,\* of the diocese of Bangor. Licence to him and his heirs to have masses and other divine offices celebrated in the oratory of the poor hospital of St. Mary the Virgin in the said diocese, situate between two arms of the sea called Traeth urtro [Artro] and Abermo, eight English miles apart, in which the tide ebbs and flows twice a day as far as the mountains, which are opposite the sea; the said hospital having been begun to be founded and built by him for poor and wayfarers and being difficult of access." The hospital thus founded was without doubt Egryn.

Gruffydd ap Llewelyn ap Cynwrig was a descendant of Osbwrn Wyddel [Osborn the Irishman], who is known to have lived at the commencement of the 14th century. Gruffydd was Osborn's great-grandson, and he therefore falls correctly within the date of the document. The hospice does not appear to have been affiliated to the Order of Knights Hospitallers of St. John, and it may have been carried on directly by the founder and his successors. It would seem to have been suppressed or diverted from its original purpose prior to the seizures of Henry VIII and Edward VI, for it does not appear in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of the former king, nor in the Chantry returns of the latter, and researches in the Public Record Office have contributed no further information respecting its fate. There is a Dol Yspytty, 'the hospice meadow,' in the parish, which was doubtless part of the endowment of the house.

[Illustrated, fig. 10.]

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

125. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 N.W.). Ded: St. Bodvan. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

This church has been the object of somewhat extravagant eulogy by the late Mr. E. A. Freeman, though it is indubitably the most interesting ecclesiastical edifice in the county. It consists of nave with clerestory, narrow north and south aisles of equal length with the nave, aisleless chancel, south porch and western bell gable. The charm of the church lies in the fact that it exhibits a steady development in architectural style extending over a period of perhaps fifty years, without any violent interposition of subsequent styles. The prevailing style is Early English, but the chancel which was first built shows evidences of late Transitional Norman in the capitals of the arch opening to the nave. The only window in the eastern wall is a plain single lancet. The nave arcade is of five bays; the piers have retained some of the heavy massiveness of the Norman period, but the capitals are assuming the characteristics of incipient Early English, and the arches display the beauty and perfection of that style. The clerestory has four small plain pointed windows on each side. The west wall has two lancets which, though modern, are exact reproductions of the originals. The porch at the west end of the south aisle is probably part of the original plan. The doorway into the church—its most striking individual feature—is a fine example of Early English. The open roof of the chancel is of the 16th century; that of the nave is later, and is perhaps modern. The font basin is octagonal; it is ornamented with quatrefoils and heraldic shields.

The church is described as "one of the greatest triumphs of architectural genius and judgment" by Mr. E. A. Freeman in *Arch. Camb.*, 1856, III, ii, 229. The work done at the restoration in 1858 is briefly set forth by Mr. W. W. E. Wynne, *ib.* III, iv, 314, with illustration of part of an early coffin lid found in pulling down the west front.† A beautiful double-crucifix was discovered at the east end of the South aisle at the same period (fig. 71).

\* *Donsel*, a cadet of a family of gentle blood, a page.

† In the succeeding volume of *Archæologia Cambrensis* (III, v, 142) Mr. Wynne states, "In my former notices of the restorations I believe that I omitted to mention a very remarkable lancet window, much perished, on the south side of the chancel. This window appeared to have outside a circular moulding all round it on the centre or chamfer plane, *sill included*. The only instance which I have noticed where this remarkable feature occurs is in a window, one of the stones of which was dug up a few years since at Castell y Berè, and that appears to have been exactly similar. Upon pulling down the Llanaber window, for the purpose of restoring it exactly, we discovered that it had been not a *single* lancet, but a couplet; and after a very minute examination by a Gothic friend and myself, we made out, to the best of our belief, that it had 'soft cusps.' It has been restored, so far as its perished state would allow of its being done, exactly as it originally stood."

## Parish of LLANABER.

The earliest tombstone that was noticed in the churchyard was that of Mary, wife of [Joh]n Hughes, bearing date 12th September, 1661.—Visited, 17th October, 1913.

NOTE.—Mr. W. W. E. Wynne of Peniarth, dealing with the generally unusual character of Llanaber; and its departure from the ordinary Welsh type of parish church, suggests that it might have been constructed under the patronage and at the cost of Osbwrn Wyddel, who became by marriage the ancestor of various branches of the Vaughan family of Corsygedol; and of this Osbwrn Wyddel, or Osborn the Irishman, Mr. Wynne, in a note in *Arch. Camb.*, 1875, IV, vi, 2, says:—"There is good evidence to show that Osborn was a son of John fitz Thomas fitz Maurice fitz Gerald, the first Geraldine lord of Decies and Desmond. In the tax-roll for Merioneth, of a fifteenth, of the year 1293-4, in the Public Record Office, Osborn's name appears as assessed in the parish of Llanaber." That Osborn's name does appear in an undated document of the reign of Edward I is quite correct, and there is no reason for doubting the traditional story that he was a member of an Irish house who crossed the Channel and by marriage established himself at Corsygedol. But 1293-4 (assuming that to be the date of the roll referred to) is too late for the architecture of Llanaber Church. By no possibility can the chancel arch of Llanaber be given a later date than the year 1225, and, even taking into consideration the allowance of time necessary for the arrival and acceptance of new architectural ideas in the wilds of Wales, it is probable that 1200 would be nearer its true date. It may be conjectured that its erection is due to Hywel ap Gruffydd, who, we learn from the answer of the monks of Cymmer Abbey to the writ of *quo warranto* of Edward I (*Record of Caernarvon*, 199), was regarded by them as one of their original benefactors.

[Illustrated, figs. 25, 26, 65, 66, and 71].

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

126. *Cerrig y cledd, the sword stones* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 32''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 40''$ ).

These are members of a group of huge natural boulders, one of which has split into two nearly equal halves. The interior face of each portion shows a hollow which bears some resemblance to the matrix of a sword—hence the name given to the stones. The impressions have the appearance of being cut with a chisel, or at any rate of having been artificially improved upon; but they are probably natural. The larger of the two stones is 8 feet by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the smaller 7 feet by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

NOTE.—At a meeting of the Archaeological Institute on 2nd March, 1855, Mr. W. W. E. Wynne "produced facsimiles taken in plaster and gutta percha from the singular sword-like impressions on two rocks near Barmouth. . . . The place is called 'the Field of the Swords'; and on each of these rocks, which appear originally to have formed one mass, now riven asunder, there appears an indent, about 2 feet 7 inches in length, resembling a leaf-shaped British sword. Tradition points out the spot as the scene of a battle. Mr. Wynne observed that he had considered it possible these cavities might be natural, arising from the structure of the rock, or some fossil remains which had been embedded in it. On submitting the casts, however, with specimens of the rock, to the best authorities at the Museum of Economic Geology, it had been decidedly affirmed that they are not organic" (*Arch. Journal*, 1855, xii, 189).

126A. *Prehistoric Hearth* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 0''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 44''$ ).

The attention of the Commission's Inspecting Officer having been directed by Mr. T. C. Cantrill, B.Sc., an officer of the Geological Survey, to the fact that the County of Merioneth was not altogether lacking in examples of a class of antiquities of which the counties of Carmarthen and Pembroke are prolific, namely, the mounds which for want of more definite scientific knowledge of their nature and composition have been called "prehistoric hearths" (see the Commission's volume of Inventories of the Ancient Monuments of Co. Carmarthen, pref. xxx), a special visit was paid to the Merionethshire example noticed by Mr. Cantrill in the course of his geological investigations.

The site has hitherto passed unnoticed. It is not mentioned by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, who conducted some excavations in the hill-camp of Pen dinas and immediate neighbourhood for the Cambrian Archaeological Association in the summer of 1919 (*Arch. Camb.*, pp. 99-133), or by any of the members of the Association during their visit to those excavations.

The position is as indicated above. A small irregularly-circular elevation of the ground, which can hardly be termed a mound, stands on a rough pasture-field or ffridd about 230 yards east-by-south of Pen dinas (No. 122). The enclosure is bounded on the south by the little brook called Ceunant Egryn, a streamlet that flows through the Egryn ravine, past Egryn "Fort" (No. 123) and Egryn house, to the sea. The mound adjoins the western side of a small runnel that flows down to the Ceunant, 77 yards to the south; its approximate measurements are 24 feet from

## Parish of LLANABER.

north to south, and 18 feet from east to west, and it is distinguished from the surrounding ground by its greater greenness and its tufts of straggling gorse-bushes.

Facing the runnel on the eastern side of the mound is a well-marked hollow. The north and south sides of this hollow have about them a few blocks of gritstone, and there are several small boulders in other parts of the mound ; but there is no sufficient indication that these blocks of stone are artificially placed. The mound itself is more or less saturated with water, and the ground surrounding it is practically a morass. "On removing the thin turf of the mound," observes Mr. Cantrill, "the materials composing it were found to be angular fragments of the local green gritstone and sandstone, burnt red, and embedded in dark soil." The Commission's Inspecting Officer also found small angular pebbles with apparent marks of fire, but no charcoal was noticed.—Visited, 2nd October, 1920.

127. *Ffynnon Oledd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 38''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 12''$ ).

This well was once much frequented by rheumatic and scorbutic patients. It is situated on the slopes of Llawllech at a height of 880 feet above Ordnance datum, where three mountain trackways meet. It is built round with substantial walling, and with a stepway leading to the water. The water has no marked taste, and there is no deposit from it. The well is situated one mile north-north-east of Sylvaen.

128. *Inscribed Stone*. About the year 1858 there was removed to Llanaber church, where it has been placed at the west end of the edifice, a rough monolith about five feet high upon which is cut the following inscription :—

CAELEXTI MONEDO RIGI.

The first reference to this inscription seems to be made in a note written by Mr. Lewis Morris about 1737 and contained in a volume of manuscript collections now in the British Museum (*Addit. MSS.*, 14907, fo. 187b.). This note runs—"In ye sands by Barmouth, in Merionethshire, about a hundred yards from ye land or high-water mark, there was a stone lately taken notice of, with the following [the above] inscription. It lay flat in a small brook running from Beilwart [recte Ceilwart] farm, but now lies over ye said brook for a foot-bridge. There was another formerly seen about ye place this lay, but is now cover'd with sand, and not to be found. This stone is about two yards long, one broad, more than a quarter of a yard thick, rough and unhewn." This information was communicated to Mr. Morris by Mr. Nicholson, surveyor-general of North Wales.

Ceilwart Isa farm is in the modern parish of Barmouth, a few yards from the boundary of Llanaber parish ; but as the stone when at Ceilwart was evidently not in its original position, which is unknown, the above entry is placed under the parish of Llanaber.

Hübner, *Inscr. Brit. Christ.*, No. 128 ; Westwood, *Lapidarium Walliae*, p. 162, pl. lxxx ; Rhys, *Lectures on Welsh Philology*, 376 ; Holder, *Alt-celtischer Sprachschatz*, ii, 623.

[Illustrated, fig. 74A.]

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST.)

130. (i) *Cae y Garreg* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 1''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 1''$ ). Tithe Schedule No. 55.

(ii) *Cae'r Garreg* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 14''$  and  $15''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 36''$ ). Tithe Schedule, Nos. 928-9.



Fig. 67.

## Parish of LLANABER.

(iii) *Cae Maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 14''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 31''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 1,002. A field on the farm of Golodd, with no indications of a stone. The name should probably be *Cae Main*.

NOTE.—In the Survey of 7 Henry V. (*Rec. Caern 277*) 'Golodd' is given as 'Goleedd.'

(iv) *Cae Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 48''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 40''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 1,233. There is a low heap of small stones lying against the field wall, but they appear to be field clearings of comparatively recent date.

(v) *Cae'r llech, the field of the stone* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 38''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 5''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 1,368. The name is unknown to the occupier of *Cae hir*, and there are no appearances that explain it.

(vi) *Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 44''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 0''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 1,386. The name is unknown, and there are no traces of a cairn.

131. *Dinas mawr and bach* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.W., lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 48''$  and  $50''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 18''$  and  $15''$ ).

Two small holdings near Trawshir (Tithe Schedule, Nos. 150 and 156). In the fields, on the upper and lower sides of the wall, are a number of grassy mounds, of an average height of 3 or 4 feet, with large stones buried in the turf.

132. *Ffridd Faen, the moorland of the stone* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, 32 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 15''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 52''$ ).

An enclosure from the surrounding land ; so called in the Tithe Schedule, No. 1,060, but known to the farmer of Sylvaen Farm as 'Ffridd fach.' There are no traces of a standing stone, and as the original enclosure was long and narrow in shape, the name is probably intended for 'Ffridd fain,' 'the narrow strip.'

133. *Caerau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 S.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 46''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 0''$ ).

A small mountain farm, 900 feet above sea level. There are no appearances of defensive banks or ditches. Tithe Schedule, No. 1,456.

134. *Cae Croes, cross field* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 3''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 20''$ ).

A field on the farm of Rhuddallt. The name as given in the Tithe Schedule, No. 1,688, is unknown to the occupier and to the oldest residents of the district. It may have no archaeological significance.

135. *Cwm Mynach, the monk's valley* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, 23 N.W.).

The name is probably derived from the ownership of the land by the abbey of Cymmer (see No. 277), which had property in the parish of Llanaber.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

136. *Stone Implement.* What is described as a stone pounder found in the parish of Llanaber is now in the British Museum.

136A. *Flint flakes* found "with burnt bones in a circle of stones near Llanaber, where no flint occurs naturally" (Evans, *Stone Implements*, 1897, p. 279). See also *Arch. Journal*, xii, 189.

136B. *Bronze Bridle Bits.* Following upon the investigations conducted by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford into the prehistoric antiquities of the neighbourhood of Carneddau Hengwm (See Nos. 117-8, 122-3 above) two pairs of bronze bridle bits which are said to have been discovered near Hengwm barrows, and which had passed into the possession of the owners of the property, have been presented to the British Museum by Mrs. Charles Williams of Hengwm. They resemble some horse trappings found at Polden Hill, Somerset.



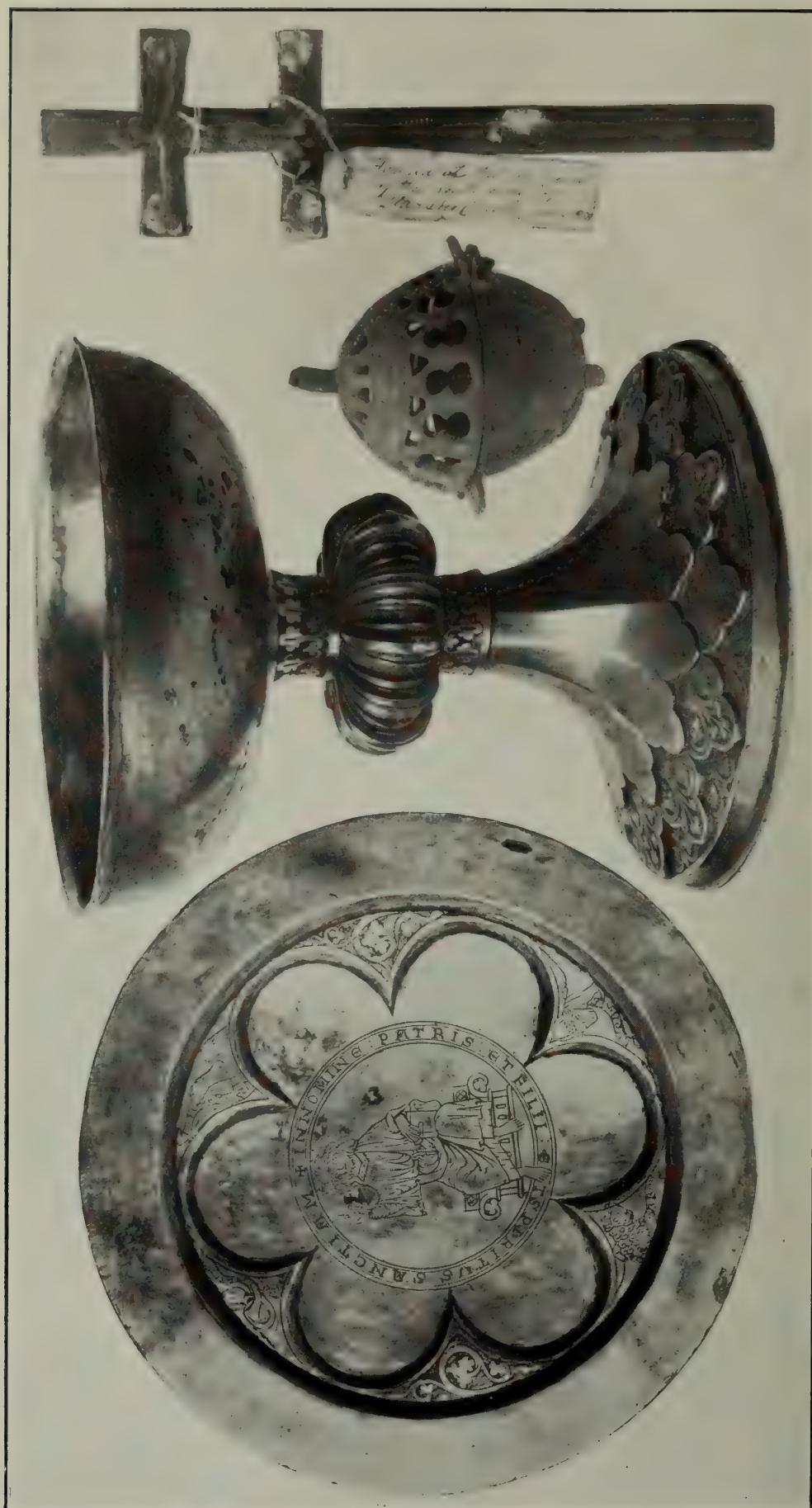


FIG. 69. LLANABER; Silver-gilt chalice and paten (No. 137).

FIG. 70. CORWEN: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 59); thurible.

FIG. 71. LLANABER: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 137A); double crucifix.

## Parish of LLANABER.

137. *Silver-gilt Chalice and Paten.* Two most perfect examples of early 13th century church plate, consisting of chalice and paten, were discovered in the year 1890 about 500 yards above the residence called Bryntirion on the Barmouth-Dolgelly road, and within the parish of Llanaber. After devious wanderings and changes of ownership they eventually found a secure haven in the National Museum of Wales through the concurrent efforts of the then Chairman of this Commission (Sir John Rhys) and Mr. W. Llewelyn Williams, K.C.

One incident in their strange eventful story was their sale at Messrs. Christie's in 1892 for the sum of £710.

They were next exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries on the 24th March, 1892, when they were said "to have been discovered about two years ago, concealed beneath a rock by the roadside, near Dolgelly, in North Wales. Another story is that the vessels were found built up in an old wall."

The following description of the chalice and paten was given to the Society on that occasion by Mr. (afterwards Sir) W. H. St. John Hope:—

The chalice is  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches high,\* and of unusually massive proportions. The bowl is  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter and 2 inches deep, and has the slightly curved lip common to all early chalices. The knob, which is wrought in one piece with the stem, is circular, 3 inches in diameter, and somewhat flattened. It is divided into twelve distinct lobes, alternately beaded and plain; the plain lobes are also beaded on each side of their bases, and have alternately a rounded and a polygonal section. Above and below the knob is a short piece forming the stem, engraved with vertical stiff-stalked leaves. The broad-spreading foot is circular,  $6\frac{3}{8}$  inches in diameter, and has twelve lobes with pointed trefoiled ends, radiating downwards from the knob. Below these appears a second and somewhat larger series of trefoiled lobes, beautifully engraved with characteristic Early English foliage on a hatched ground. Between the points, which extend to the edge of the base, the spread of the foot is similarly engraved with leaf work. The lowest member of the foot is a plain vertical band, resting on a bold roll moulding. Inside the foot, which is gilt as well as the outside, is engraved in small capital letters:

Nicol'vs me | fecit de Herfordie.

Who Nicholas of Hereford was has not yet been ascertained, but his handiwork shows he was a first-rate goldsmith.

The chalice resembles in form much smaller examples found in coffins of bishops at Salisbury and York and Chichester, all of thirteenth century date.

The paten, like the chalice, is of massive make, and the largest English example that has yet come to light, being  $7\frac{5}{8}$  inches in diameter. It has two depressions, the first plain and circular, the second sexfoil, with engraved spandrels. In the centre is engraved, within an inscribed band,  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches in diameter, a figure of Our Lord, sitting on a seat, with his right hand raised in blessing, while with His left He holds a closed book, which rests upon the left knee. The nimbus is represented by a ring of small circles. The surrounding inscription is:

+ IN NOMINE: PATRIS: ET FILII: ET SPIRITUS SANCTI AM[EN].

The spandrels on either side the central device are engraved with leafwork, but the other four contain the evangelistic symbols, St. Matthew and St. John in the upper two, and St. Mark and St. Luke in the lower, thus forming, with the central device, a Majesty. The engraving of the paten is apparently not by the same hand as that on the chalice. There is, however, no reason to doubt that the paten was made for the chalice.

The date of the vessels is *circa* 1230, and they are unquestionably the finest English chalice and paten that have yet come to light. They were sold at Christie's on 4th March, 1892, for £710. (*Archæologia*, 1893, liii, 575 (with illustrations of both vessels to full size. The paper (but not the illustrations) is given in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, ser. 2, xiv, 104).

The chalice and paten have also been the subjects of an article in *Archæological Journal*, 1892, xlix, 83, by the well-known expert, Mr. W. Cripps, C.B. He wrote of them:—

The chalice, as will be seen by the illustration, is of a very early type, much reminding us in many of its details of some of the most ancient of the vessels which have been found from time to time in the tombs of great ecclesiastics of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. In different ways it resembles more than one of these interesting relics of ecclesiastical art, its knob recalling one thought to be of 1340 at York Minster, the lip of the bowl not unlike the beautiful cup discovered in the grave of Archbishop Hubert Walter at Canterbury Cathedral, and the overlapping ornament of the foot a third such chalice preserved at York, but of uncertain date.

But with all these aids to identification, it is not so easy as it might seem to give it an exact date—for if the bowl indicates, as it does, a very early period, perhaps not later than the very commencement of the thirteenth century, the knob and adornment of the stem and foot point to the fourteenth. It would be impossible to assign it to any single type under Messrs. Fallow & Hope's well-known classification; but it would come under the earliest class in the more general classification adopted in *Old English Plate* by the present writer. There is no possible reason, even if examples are seldom found to illustrate the point, why a later artist should not, now and then, recur to vessels of an earlier period than his own for his model; and it may very well be that this has happened in the present case. All that can positively be said of it is that it is earlier in style than the Gothic series of chalices which come next in date to those with circular feet. These commence in the middle of the fourteenth century, though an example of earlier character might well be found after the newer fashion had established itself. The Paten which was found with the Chalice is of the character usually identified with the Gothic period; but it should be noticed that there is little of the Lombardic in the character of the lettering in which the inscription running round the central device is given.

\* Only two taller English mediæval chalices are known: those at Leominster and Trinity College, Oxford.

## Parish of LLANABER.

The six-lobed form of paten has seldom or never been found with coffin chalices, and as massing plate is not usually referable to an earlier period than the fourteenth century. There remains to notice the inscription which occurs under the foot of the cup in small capital letters very like those which appear on the paten. This runs as follows:— NICOLVS ME FECIT DE HERFORDIE. This Nicholas has not as yet been authoritatively identified, but a friend has drawn the writer's attention to the fact that in Cooke's *Continuation of Hereford Antiquities*, Vol. iii, pp. 86-91, a celebrated divine called 'Nicolus (or Nicolas) Herfordie' flourished at Hereford about the year 1382, and seems to have been a person of some importance.\*

The descriptions here reproduced are so full that there remains nothing to be added, beyond perhaps the detail that the total weight of both vessels is 46 ounces.

[Illustrated, fig. 69.]

## Parish of LLANBEDR.

## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

138. Carnedd (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 13''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 58''$ ).

On the confines of a field called Cae'r garnedd appurtenant to the farm of Maes y garnedd, are the remains of a large mound which has doubtless given both field and farm their names. The enclosure within which the mound actually stands is called Cae lliprin, but this may have arisen from a comparatively late subdivision of the original field. The cairn has the appearance of a square mound of about 60 feet each way, with its corners well rounded, but this shape may have been given to it when it was called upon to provide the material for the walling of the field. The mound has been opened, and at the time of the Inspector's visit there was exposed a chamber about 8 feet square, constructed of big stones that were carried to a height of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet. A low wall extending about half-way across the chamber projected from the middle of one side. This was the condition of the mound when the present tenant came into occupation over thirty years ago, but at the date of the visit he was in course of enlarging the space and heightening the surrounding walls for the purpose of converting the chamber into a *beudy* (beast-house); and it was manifest that the arrangements which were in progress would involve considerable changes in the original structure. Tithe Schedule, No. 709.—Visited, 1st September, 1914.

## DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

139. (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 18''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 10''$ ).

About 100 yards to the north-west of the parish church are two pillar stones, each of which is now enclosed within iron railings to preserve it from injury. They

have no history, but it is possible that a remark in Lewis's *Top. Dict. of Wales* (ed. 1831) recording a traditional belief that the church was originally intended to have been built at a spot where there were "four or five broad stones, 8 feet high, standing upright," may refer to the remains of a carnedd or circle of which the two stones in question are the survivors. One is about 10 feet high,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad, and 2 feet thick at the base; the other is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, 2 feet



Fig. 71A.

broad, and 7 inches thick. The stones bear no signs of tooling.—Visited, 26th May, 1914.

\* Nicholas de Hereford was chancellor of the cathedral of Hereford in 1377, and treasurer in 1398 (*Dict. Nat. Biog.*).

## Parish of LLANBEDR.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION X (MISCELLANEOUS).

140. *Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 50''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 34''$ ).

This is an enclosure formed of a bank of earth and stones on the summit of a low eminence above the farmhouse of Tan y Castell. The enclosed space is a perfect circle, having a diameter of 25 feet ; the bank is from 3 to 4 feet high. It is clear that the site is not that of a defensive position, for it is dominated by a higher hill directly to the north of it. It may be a ruined circular dwelling of larger dimensions than usual, or a medieval sheep-fold.—Visited, 26th May, 1914.

141. *Clogwyn Arllef* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 13''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 6''$ ).

This is the name of a hill which is held with the farm known as 'Garllef ucha,' the highest point of which is 590 feet above sea level. The nearly flat top of the hill is surrounded by a low wall, much demolished. The space enclosed is an irregular oval, about 80 yards by 60 yards in diameter. It was almost certainly not intended primarily for defence, but may have encompassed several hut dwellings.—Visited, 14th July, 1914.

The large piece of enclosed land immediately south of the hill is called 'Garllef issa.' It contains over thirty 'carneddau,' or heaps of stone, but these probably represent the clearing of the 'ffridd' from stones many years ago, and possess no antiquarian significance.

NOTE.—It may be mentioned that the piece of enclosed mountain pasture land to the east of Garllef issa is called 'Cerrig yr ychain' in the Tithe Schedule (No. 223), a name which has dropped out of modern recollection. About 500 yards further east is a cottage which is styled 'Llwyn Ethel' on the modern Ordnance sheets, but in the Tithe Schedule is 'Llwyn Ithel.'

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

142. *Maes y garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 20''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 54''$ ).

This 17th century house is not only interesting from its historical associations, but in style and plan is typical of the houses of the small proprietors of that period. On plan it is a simple oblong, 36 feet by 24 feet, with a slight projection at its southern end, and is of only one storey above the ground floor. There may have been a row of dormer windows in the roof ; if so, these have disappeared in the course of the alterations to which the house has been subjected. The entrance doorway, which is in the centre of the front, was protected by a porch, and there may have been a small hall. A closed-off passage now runs directly across the house to the back entrance, one of the partitions of which is original ; this passage divided the entertaining side of the house from the domestic. Apart from this the timbering has been altogether modernised. The kitchen had its own access to the upper floor by a flight of stone steps. The fireplace in the parlour was 9 feet wide ; the slightly arched aperture with its big stone voussoirs still remains. In one of the bedrooms is a small chamber, 5 feet by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet, built in the thickness of the wall, and possessing its own window ; it was probably a study. Maes y garnedd was the house of Thomas ap John ap Ieuan ap Hugh the father of Edward Jones and John Jones, the regicide.—Visited, 1st September, 1914.

143. *Mochras* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 25 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 9''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 8' 35''$ ).

This was the residence of Sion Phylip of Mochras, the poet, who died in 1620. The house is doubtless structurally of that period, and in the roof at the eastern end are three dormer windows which are probably original features ; otherwise the interior arrangements have been entirely altered. The farm buildings and barn, of excellent masonry, are at some distance from the dwelling.—Visited, 19th May, 1914.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

144. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.). Ded : St. Peter. Diocese of Bangor ; archdeaconry of Merioneth ; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

This Church consists of an aisleless nave, chancel, north vestry (modern) and south porch ; the western gable is crowned with a single bell-cote. The building would appear to be of the very late 15th or early 16th century, but its original features

## Parish of LLANBEDR.

have almost entirely disappeared in a subsequent restoration. All the windows are modern. The chancel arch is slightly pointed. There are recesses in the east wall on either side of the altar; at the present time both contain stoups. The roof timberings have been much repaired; the older parts are poor, and do not appear to be earlier than the late 17th century. The font is octagonal, the bowl later than the pillar. The older bowl, bound with an iron band, lies in the churchyard; in shape it is octagonal, and in character perfectly plain; it does not seem to be of earlier date than the 17th century. The sundial is a rude four-sided slate post, the dial without date. The oldest tombstone noticed was of the year 1720. There is a lych-gate at the north-west corner of the churchyard which may be of the early 18th century.—Visited, 26th May, 1914.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

144A. *Shell Mound* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 27''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 42''$ ).

At a spot over four miles inland from Cardigan Bay, where the 6 inch Ordnance sheet shows an altitude of 662 feet above datum, and on the bank of a tiny tributary of Afon Cwm Nantcol, about 300 yards N.N.E. of the farmstead of Maes y garnedd, is a small mound which has been the object of careful examination by Dr. Stanley Smith, until recently Professor of Geology at the University College of Wales. The upper layer of the mound consists of black earth composed of shell-fragments and charcoal; the lower layer of shell-fragments only. In it are small pebble stones which are coated with a glaze produced by the action of a wood fire upon the shell-fragments. Besides the pebbles, the heap produced a single bone which has been recognized as that of the ancient St. Kilda sheep found in the kitchen middens of Ireland. It is understood that Dr. Smith is engaged upon an account of his researches for *Archæologia Cambrensis*.—Visited, 20th October, 1920.

145. *Stone with Spiral Ornament*. Placed in a vertical position against the exterior west wall of the parish church is a stone which bears upon one of its surfaces a spiral device that is artificial and not natural. The stone is a rough and apparently unhewn boulder of andesite granite, 2 feet 9 inches high, 2 feet broad at the base and 1 foot at the top, and 14 inches thick. Until five or six years ago it stood between the two pillar stones just described (No. 139), where it is known to have been placed by Dr. Griffith Griffiths of Taltreuddyn, Llanenddwyn, somewhere in the '50's. The first mention of it in print appears to have been made by Dr. Griffiths at the annual meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association at Machynlleth in 1866, when he is reported to have stated that it "had been found by him in Dyffryn Ardudwy, on the hills near some early stone remains, and to save it from destruction he had brought it down into the vale and had it placed where it now is, between the two meinirion at Llanbedr" (*Arch. Camb.*, 1866, III, xii, 537). In the next volume of *Archæologia Cambrensis* (p. 154) the Rev. E. L. Barnwell, in a brief and altogether inadequate account of the stone, repeated the above particulars, but described it as having been found "lying among the débris of the primitive buildings usually assigned to Irish builders" in a ruined hut or group of hut circles.

The design, which occupies the upper part of the stone, consists merely of an incised groove of about an inch in width, and a depth of about one quarter of an inch, carried round seven times in ever enlarging circles. The workmanship is fairly good, but slight inequalities of depth in the cutting give the impression that the carver found difficulties in the extreme hardness of the stone. The distances between the lines vary slightly, as might be expected from a craftsman who was working upon intractable material with primitive tools and no traced pattern. The exterior grooves reach so near to the top of the stone as to prevent the continuation of the design upwards. The total area covered by the pattern is a square of 12 inches, and the outer end of the spiral breaks off without mark or indication of purposed termination. The stone bears no other design or lettering.—Visited, 26th May, 1914.

NOTE.—The Llanbedr stone was visited and reported upon by Mr. J. Romilly Allen, F.S.A., his conclusion being that the markings had some religious significance, and that it "in all probability belongs to the Bronze Age" (*Arch. Camb.*, 1904, VI, iv, 149).

The subject of spirals and cup markings has been recently dealt with by Mr. W. Paley Baildon, F.S.A., who believes the design to be of neolithic age, and to represent spirit tenements (*Archæologia*, 1909, lxi, 361).

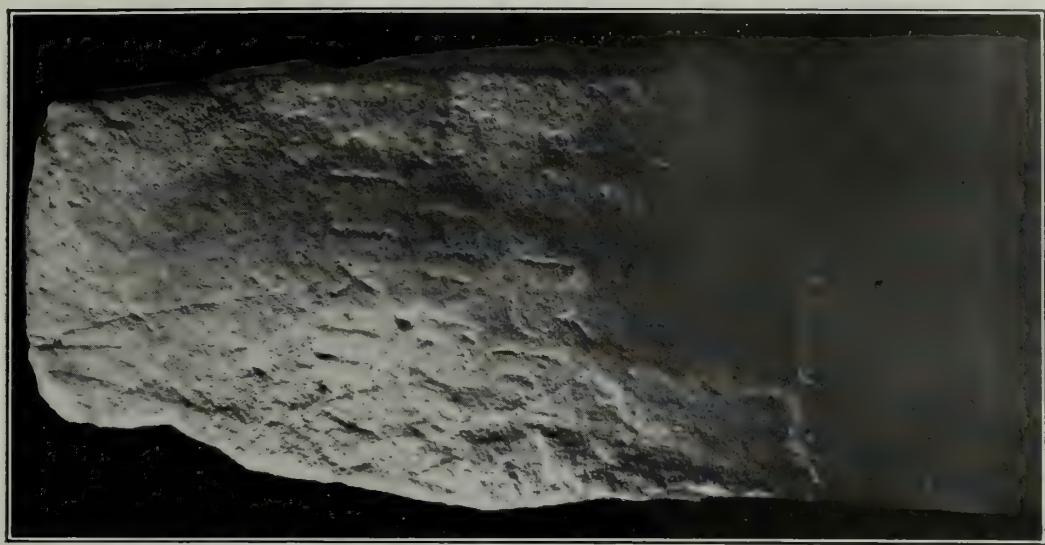


FIG. 74A. LLANABER; inscribed stone (No. 128).



FIG. 73. TOWYN: Croes Faen (No. 533).



FIG. 72. LLANBEADR; stone with spiral ornament (No. 145).



## Parish of LLANBEDR.

The various theories are briefly canvassed in *Arch. Camb.*, 1910, VI, xii, 254, with special relation to the Llanbedr stone, and a photograph of the stone is given, but no fresh explanation is offered.

G. Coffey contended "that the general view at present held by those who have studied the question is that the spiral was introduced, and that in the case of Ireland it was derived from Scandinavia" (*Bronze Age in Ireland*, 1913, p. 101).

Dechelette believed the spiral motive to have been derived from the East in neolithic times, and to have passed to Scandinavian regions (where it is found abundantly) in the Bronze Age (*Manuel d'Archéologie*, i, 612).

[*Illustrated, fig. 72.*]

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

146. "*The Roman Steps*" (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.E. and 26 N.E. ; from Cwm bychan, lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 47''$ — $52^{\circ} 51' 0''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 37''$ — $3^{\circ} 59' 17''$ ).

The range of hills which runs a north and south course through the upper part of the county of Merioneth, and connects the mountain systems of Snowdonia and Cader Idris, is traversed by a series of valleys, through one of which flows the little river Artro, from the source of its northern branch in Cwm bychan to its arrival at the village of Llanbedr, beyond which it soon falls into Cardigan Bay. The course worked out by the river must always have formed a natural line of communication as far as Cwm bychan, but the huge mass of Rhinog fawr stood in the way of a correspondingly natural and easy descent into the valley of the Eden on the eastern side of the range. The difficulty was overcome by the construction of a pathway from the eastern corner of the pool called 'Llyn Cwm bychan,' the ascent of the northern slopes of Rhinog fawr through a slight depression called 'Bwlch tyddiad,' thus passing into the tiny river valley of Nant llyn du, and the following of the stream to its junction with the Eden, where a Roman road gave easy access to the valleys of the Wnion and the Dee.

The distance from Cwm bychan farmstead to the descent to Nant llyn du is about two miles, the path rising from about 550 feet to slightly over 1,300 feet. On the lower levels the ground is boggy, but for the greater part of its length the path is on the surface of the rock, and, where it has to make a somewhat precipitate rise over treacherous or uneven ground, rude slabs of stone have been placed in the form of steps. These slabs are from 3 to 4 feet wide, and here and there are edged with similar slabs placed vertically. The longest stretch of this paved or stepped surface measures about 400 feet, and there are five distinct sections of stepped pavement. The stones probably never formed a continuous paving, though it is quite possible that the sections were originally of greater length than they are at present, for some of the flags may have sunk into the bog, and others been washed out of their place by mountain torrents.

This interesting feature of antiquity is in these days generally known by the name of 'The Roman Steps.' There is, however, no reason to believe that the causeway is anything more than a work of medieval times. Apart from the fact that, notwithstanding some 'restoration' of recent years, the line of flags is not laid with the accuracy and care of genuine Roman work, there is the absence of any occasion for such a construction by the Romans. They had a small station in the valley of the Eden, with a road proceeding northwards to Caerhun and southwards to Pennal. It may also be regarded as certain that if that great and practical people had required to cross the mountains of central Merioneth, they would not have done so by the tortuous line of the Artro.

On the other hand it may be suggested that when Harlech, in virtue of its castle, became an important administrative and mercantile position, a short and safe route from the main north-and-south road through the country and beyond would be a necessity, and it would be quite easy for packmen to bring their merchandise along the causeway through Bwlch tyddiad. There can be little doubt that the path was formed with sufficient care to fulfil such a purpose, and its construction may safely be dated somewhere within the sixty years between the building of Harlech castle and the visitation of the Black Death.—Traversed, 27th August, 1914.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1873, IV, iv, 86, with illustrations.

NOTE.—It may be observed that the well-known pass called 'Bwlch drws Ardudwy,' 'the Defile of Ardudwy,' which skirts the southern slopes of Rhinog fawr and, passing down the valley of Cwm Nantcol, joins the valley of the Artro at the little village of Pentre gwynfryn, has a similar though not so clearly marked series of steps cut in the mountain trackway; these, however, form only a single section, and extend but a short distance. A short length of the Sarn Elen between Maentwrog and Croesor, and a small section of the Sarn Elen in the parish of Llanfrothen (No. 390) are flagged in similar manner. These were doubtless important channels of local communication in late medieval times.

## Parish of LLANBEDR.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

147. *Pen y garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 25 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 52''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 9' 0''$ ).

The name of this site is preserved by the Tithe Schedule, where it is No. 2. It is a field contiguous to the sea shore at Mochras, in the outlying portion of the parish of Llanbedr. There are now no indications of a cairn, and any foundations of one have been covered by blown sand. No traditions of a carnedd exist, but there can be no doubt that one stood on or near the site above indicated.—Visited, 19th May, 1914.

148. *Pen y Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 25 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 18''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 8' 19''$ ).

This is a site at the northern end of the small cultivated area at Mochras (Tithe Schedule, No. 20). The ground is slightly elevated so that the level of the field is about 6 feet above that of the surrounding surface. It may thus be said to have 'commanded' the immediate vicinity, and hence have obtained the name of Pen y castell; or there may have been a small earthwork here to guard a landing place. No vestige of antiquity now remains.—Visited, 19th May, 1914.

149. *Cae garn fach* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 44''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 5''$ ).

This is a small field situated about half a mile to the north of Maes y garnedd farm (see No. 142). There may have been at one time a small cairn here, but no sign of such is now to be discerned, and the name has dropped out of use. Tithe Schedule, No. 742.—Visited, 1st September, 1914.

150. *Plas Gwynfryn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 18''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 20''$ ).

On the land appurtenant to Plas Gwynfryn, between the farm buildings and Tyddyn du, are the remains of stone-built enclosures which may be of prehistoric origin. They consist of a large somewhat pear-shaped enclosure measuring about 60 feet by a maximum of 45 feet, the long axis running east and west. At the western or narrow end is a smaller enclosure within the larger, having a communication between about midway along its eastern wall. The enclosure thus formed at the western end of the larger area makes a very perfect circle 30 feet in diameter. Near its centre are two quite small circles which may have been early hut dwellings; but the whole is in too ruined a condition to permit of certainty without careful excavation of the entire site. In the larger area, and running directly northwards from the south wall of the enclosure, are the remains of a stone wall, extending about half-way across the interior space, but carried beyond the entrance to the inner circle which it thus protects. Much of the exterior walling on the north side has disappeared. The proximity of the site to human habitations has doubtless led to the removal of much stone, so that it is now impossible to speak with confidence of the character of the site.—Visited, 27th August, 1914.

151. *Gweirglodd maen llwyd*, 'grey stone meadow' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 14''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 30''$ ).

This is a small meadow on the right bank of the little stream Afon Cwm Nantcol, where is a natural outcrop of rock which has doubtless given rise to the suggestion of a maen llwyd. Tithe Schedule, No. 503.—Visited, 31st August, 1914.

152. *Llyn y ffynnon Delau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26, S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 36''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 54''$ ).

A field on the farm of Hen bandy, where there existed a well which has been closed within living memory. The name is given in the Tithe Schedule, No. 58, as 'Ffynnon Dela.' Both forms are inexplicable.—Visited, 6th July, 1914.

## Parish of LLANBEDR.

153. *Old Building, foundations of* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 34''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 11''$ ).

In a small coppice a few yards east of the cottage called Tyn y coed, and 170 yards east of Pen yr allt farmstead, are the remains of a building which, in 1910, was cleared of the rubbish beneath which it had become buried, by Mr. C. E. Breese, M.P., of Portmadoc. Mr. Breese found the lower portions of the walls of a rectangular building 34 feet 6 inches by 16 feet, with an entrance 2 feet 10 inches wide, about 6 feet from the north-west corner. The walls are of good masonry, and over 3 feet thick. A curious feature of the excavation was the number of glazed pebbles discovered throughout the interior of the building. There was also found a lump of iron slag and a piece of glazed pottery, unquestionably of medieval date. As the building lies due east and west it has been suggested that it was ecclesiastical in character, and Mr. Breese states that the adjoining field was formerly known as 'Cae pen y bryn eglwys' (or, better, 'Cae pen bryn yr eglwys') ; but this name does not appear in the Tithe Schedule, and there is a complete absence of tradition relating to the site.—Visited, 27th August, 1914.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1908, VI, viii, 267.

154. *Sarn Hir* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26, S.W.).

A part of the main road between Llanbedr village and Harlech is known by this name. It is probable that from very early times there existed a line of road along the coast, and the section thus named doubtless represents a portion of it that, running over low, perhaps boggy ground, called for careful construction between the point where it crossed the Artro and the village which received the name Pen sarn because the pebbled surface or causeway terminated there. One of the fields, called 'Cae sarn,' abutting upon the main road at lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 30''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 10''$ , gives evidence of the character of the surface over which the causeway passed.—Traversed, 28th May, 1914.

155. *Erw Hen Sarn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 20''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 15''$ ).

This is a piece of land, doubtless originally one enclosure but now formed into four small fields (Tithe Schedule, No. 275-8) lying along the course of an old trackway leading from Harlech to the valley of the Artro. The surface was probably cobbled in places, though no signs of pitching appear in the stretch parallel to the fields.—Visited, 29th May, 1914.

156. *Cwrt* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 27 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 42''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 4''$ ).

A small farmhouse lying just within the north-eastern corner of the parish, the river Crawewellt (or Eden, as it is also called) separating it from the parish of Trawsfynydd. It has no pretensions to notice here apart from the interest aroused by its name, which is probably ancient, and, if so, connects the dwelling with the residence of one of the officers of the medieval quasi-manorial commote.

156A. In a document now in the Public Record Office (*Exchequer K. R. : Bills and Answers. Merioneth. Eliz. No. 7*) is a Bill addressed to Sir William Cecil, lord treasurer and one of the barons of the Exchequer, complaining of encroachments on, and ejectment from, the waste of the forest of Snowdon. The following places are named in the Bill, and are here brought to notice in the hope that they may afford some assistance in fixing the limits of the medieval "forest" of Snowdon :—Llechwedd Moervre [? Moelvre], Gwern Illyn, Y cefn goed (in it Y garreg rydd), Pant yr onnen, Maes y llech, Y pant towyll, Perthi y pyeod [piod], Ynys y bwch, Y ffrith vawr, Y llechi rhyddion,\* Kae bickre, Y kay newydd, Kors Mancoel [Nancol], containing in all one thousand acres.

\* Can this have reference to the Roman steps ?

## Parish of LLANBEDR.

## DIVISION VII. (FINDS).

157. In the garden of Cae Nest, Llanbedr, is a rude irregularly-six-sided basin, reputed to be a font brought from Llandanwg church, or from some other neighbouring church ; it is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, has a hollow on the top about 15 inches across, and is 5 inches deep ; it is without drain. The Perpendicular font of Llandanwg is in St. Catherine's church, Harlech.—Seen, 14th July, 1914.



Fig. 73

157A. About fifteen years ago an urn burial was discovered in the immediate vicinity of the hamlet of Pensarn, but no further particulars are procurable. The urn was broken ; the fragment, of which an illustration is given, is in the museum of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

## Parish of LLANDANWG.

## DIVISION Id. (STONE CIRCLES).

158. *Moel Goedog Circles* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W. ; (i) lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 16''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 52''$  ; (ii) lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 17''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 55''$ ).

On the south-western slope of Moel Goedog, and the upper part of the mountain, are two stone circles, with an intervening space of about 50 yards :—(i) consists of seven stones, three of which are standing to heights varying from 9 to 21 inches ; the others are prostrate, the largest being over 4 feet long ; the diameter of the circle is about 20 feet : (ii) the second circle is to the west of the former, and is not so clearly defined ; only three stones of notable size stand on the periphery ; the rest are prostrate, or out of the circle, and there is a considerable gap on the east side ; the diameter of the circle is about 20 feet.—Visited, 9th July, 1914.

It is probable that these formed the outer rings of the foundation stones of two cairns, but if this is the case it should be noted that the cairns must have been swept away before the close of the 17th century, for Edward Lhuyd gives figures of the circles as they appeared about 1698 (see *Parochialia* ii, 87–8, and No. 523, post).

## DIVISION II. (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

158A. *Y Gaer, Moel Goedog* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 19''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 35''$ ).

This is one of the finest of the hill forts of the county, and the meeting place of the three parishes of Llandanwg, Llanfair, and Talsarnau. The enclosure is about 250 yards in diameter, and nearly half a mile in circumference. The surface of the interior is flat. The northern (or Talsarnau) section is defended by three banks, the two outermost of which gradually merge into one ; the third or innermost in its course takes advantage of the frequent outcrops of rock. These banks vary in height from 3 to 6 feet. There would appear originally to have been only one entrance, a little east of north, where the sides are lined by boulders placed upright, and stones heaped upon and around them. The building of boundary fences has led to considerable damage to the camp walls, and detracted much from the impressiveness of this hill fort.—Visited, 9th July, 1914.



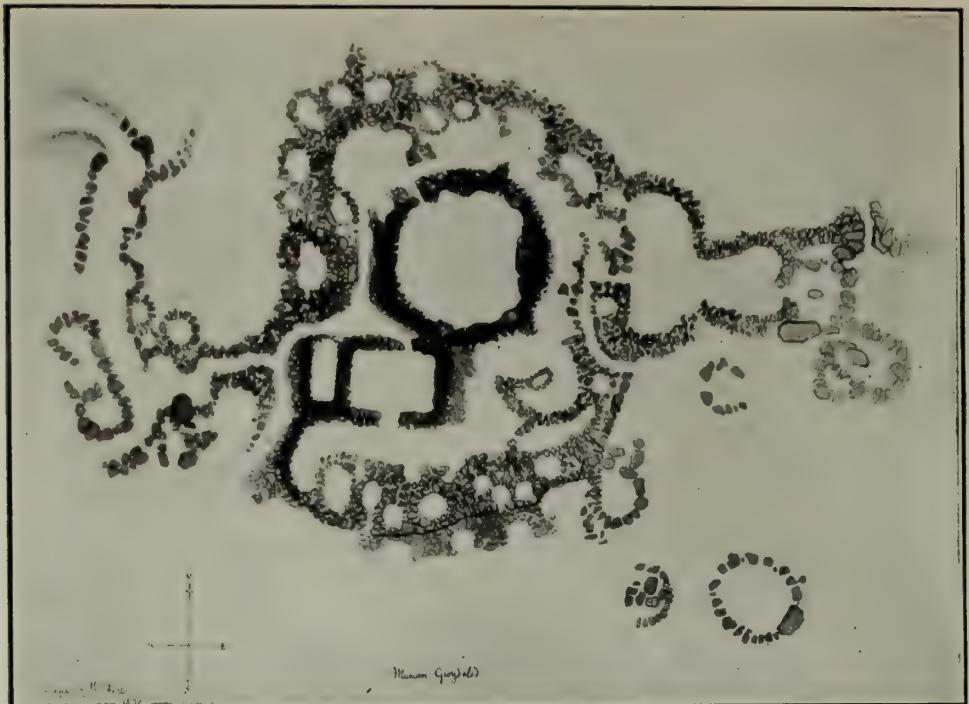


FIG. 105. LLANFAIR: MURIAU GWYDDELOD (No. 325).



FIG. 103. LLANDANWG: MURIAU GWYDDELOD (No. 160).

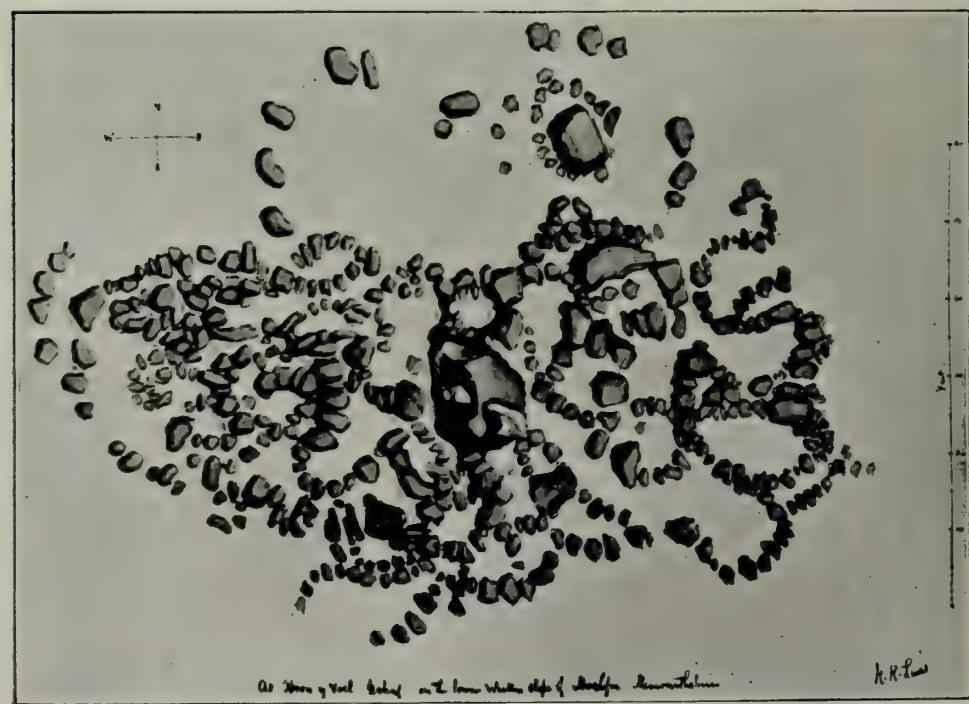


FIG. 102. LIANENDDWYN: BRON Y FOEL UCHA (No. 284); hut circles.

## Parish of LLANDANWG.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION H (ANCIENT VILLAGE SITES).

159. *Hut Circles* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 2''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 50''$ ).

In a field called Caé crwn on the farm of Merthyr are the remains of at least four huts closely clustered together. Of these two are nearly circular, one 21 feet by 18 feet internal diameter, the other 15 feet by 12 feet; the other two huts are rectangular, one being 30 feet by 12 feet, and the second 30 feet by 15 feet. There are traces of at least one other enclosure, but too ruined to permit of measurement. The conjunction of circular with rectangular forms is curious, and excites suspicion of the great antiquity of the remains.—Visited, 2nd September, 1914.

160. *Muriau Gwyddelod*, 'the Irishmen's' or 'the wood-men's Walls' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, 26 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 3''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 18''$ ).

This is a large nearly circular enclosure inside which one hut circle was noted. The internal diameter is about 60 feet. The walls are formed of earth and stone, and at present stand at the height of about 4 feet. In some places they are 18 feet thick, and have cavities caused probably by the removal of the stones they contained. The entrance into the enclosure is on the south-west, and measures about 3 feet 6 inches across. Immediately outside the entrance is a huge heap of stones.—Visited, 14th July, 1914.

A few carneddau are scattered about the adjoining fields, but they are probably clearances made when the ffridd was enclosed.

NOTE.—These structures were examined by Mr. H. H. Llynes in the year 1870, and a paper by him on the subject was posthumously printed in *The Antiquary* for 1894 (p. 76). Mr. Llynes says (p. 80) of the remains at and around Muriau Gwyddelod—"The remains consist of *cittiau* or semi-subterranean hut-dwellings of uncemented or dry stonework, surrounded by stone circles and ovals with an oval amphitheatre," etc.

[Illustrated, fig. 103].

## DIVISION III (STONE-STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

161. *Y Lasynys* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 26''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 11''$ ).

A house of no pretensions to notice here apart from its abiding interest to Welshmen as the home of the Rev. Ellis Wynne, author of *Y Bardd Cwsg* and other less-known works, who died in the year 1734. An old cupboard bed, having two oaken doors ornamented with a plain design of the early part of the 17th century, is spoken of as a relic of the celebrated writer.—Visited, 11th July, 1914.

162. *Merthyr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 59''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 37''$ ).

A large farm house, the name of which is its sole claim to notice here. A portion of the farm buildings are of greater age, and may have formed part of an earlier dwelling. It at any rate points to a lengthened period of existence, but throws no light on the *martyrium* to which the name bears witness.—Visited, 7th July, 1914.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—MEDIEVAL CASTLES).

163. *Harlech Castle* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W.)

Of this splendid example of Edwardian military architecture it is here unnecessary to give more than a brief sketch. It is now under the guardianship of H.M. Office of Works, and an excellent little official guide to the ruins has been provided. An admirable architectural account of the castle is given by Mr. Harold Hughes, A.R.I.B.A., in *Arch. Camb.*, 1913, VI, xiii, 275–316, from which the accompanying plan is taken by permission.

Harlech castle was built between the years 1280 and 1284, although it may not have been completely finished until some time later. It is placed on a platform of

## Parish of LLANDANWG.

rock which rises abruptly from the level plain that at a still earlier period may have been covered by the sea.

The plan is that of a concentric fortress, the main buildings of the castle forming part of a great gateway which is placed in the centre of the north front. Behind this gateway is the courtyard of the castle, and round the curtain walls were ranged the domestic buildings. The chapel was in the north wall, and in course of the preservative work undertaken by the Office of Works the upper portion of the east window has been uncovered. The castle was besieged and taken in the Glyndwr rising, and again during the Wars of the Roses, and once more during the Civil War. The apartments in the gateway were used for the sittings of the judges itinerant from the establishment of the Welsh judiciary by Henry VIII, and the interior fittings of the rooms must have been considerably altered in consequence.

NOTE.—It has frequently been stated that the Edwardian castle was preceded by a construction of some sort on the same site, and the latter is said to have been called Caer Collwyn from its founder Collwyn ap

Tangno. For this earlier structure there is not the slightest evidence. But it is clear from the Mabinogion story of Branwen verch Llyr that the district of Harlech, and perhaps the Castle rock itself, was associated with the earliest traditions of the Cymry. From a letter to Mr. Edward Lhuyd, dated 30th December, 1694 (*Parochialia*, iii, 108), we learn that there was a Llech Ollwyn (for Collwyn) near Harlech, and it may be suggested that the site of Brân and Branwen's "residence," and of Collwyn's "caer," was the stone circle known by the suggestive misnomer "Muriau Gwyddelod" described above (No. 160). The farm of Llech Ollwyn is in Parsel yr ynyd, near the church of Llanfihangel y Troethau.

[Illustrated, fig. 1, frontispiece.]

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

164. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 25 N.E. ; Ded : St. Tanwg. Diocese of Bangor ; archdeaconry of Merioneth ; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

This church is situated on a flat sandy plain about a mile from the present high water mark. It has been abandoned for many years, but a few years ago certain preservative work was done by the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, and the structure was saved from impending ruin. A new parish church has been built in a more convenient position, and in view of recent developments and the absence of all provision for the care and preservation of such structures, it is the probable fate of the old parish church of Llandanwg to pass finally away in neglect and decay.

The structure is a parallelogram, about 57 feet long by 23 feet broad externally. The chamber is now stripped of all fixtures and details, but over the sacrairum are the remains of a coved roof, and a few of the principal rafters are still in position. The beam of the rood is in place but no part of a screen. The original east window had a pointed head, and seems to have been of the early Perpendicular period ; at

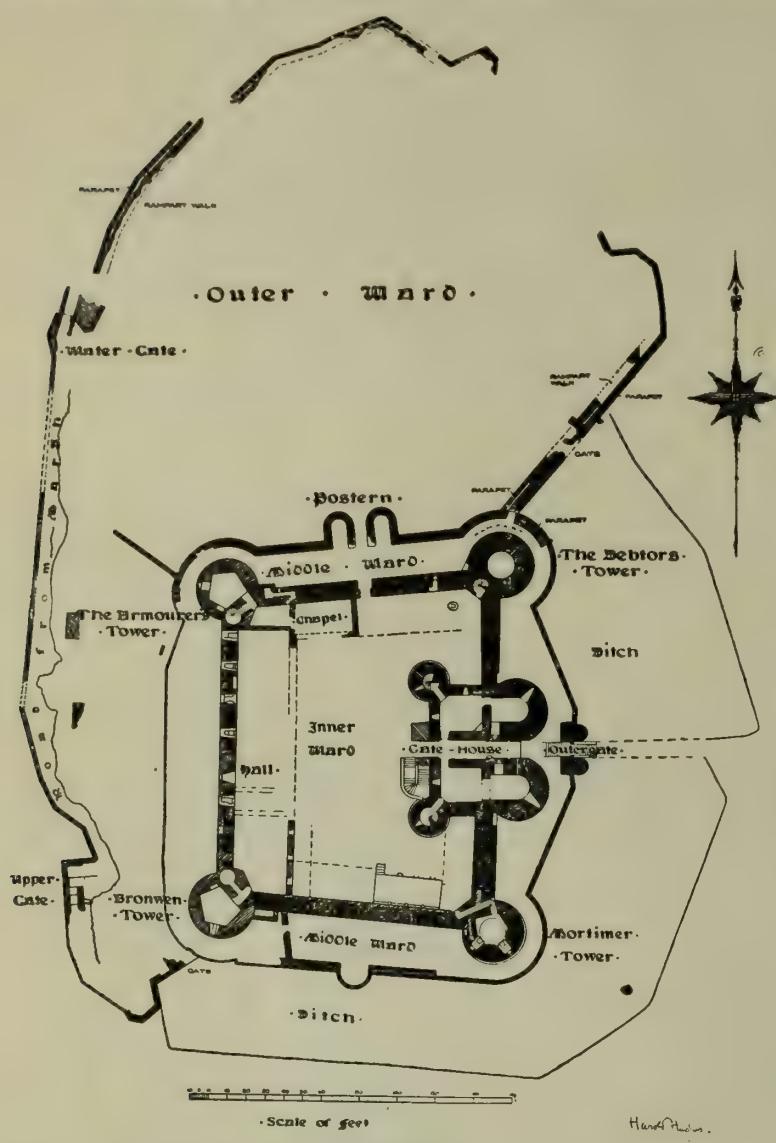


Fig. 73A.





FIG. 74. LLANDANWG: THE OLD PARISH CHURCH (No. 164).

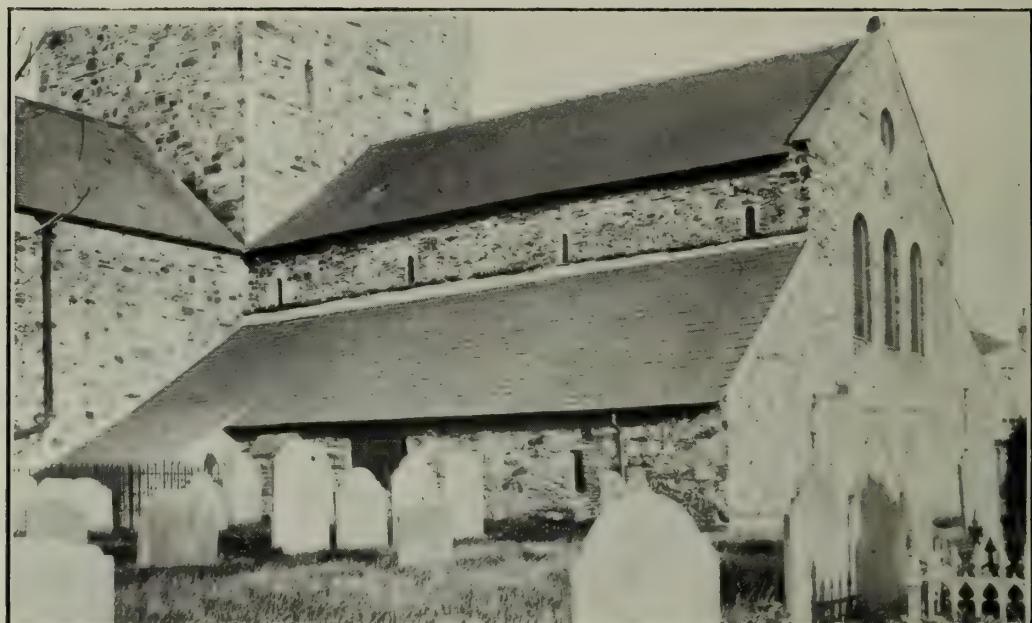


FIG. 75. TOWYN: THE PARISH CHURCH; late Norman nave (No. 538).



FIG. 76. LLANFROTHEN: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 389).

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a later date, probably in the 17th century, this window with others in the church were renewed with the usual square lights. The spaces in the east gable were built up, and in support of the new window a large squared stone bearing a very early inscription was inserted above the lintel of the window, fortunately with the inscription facing

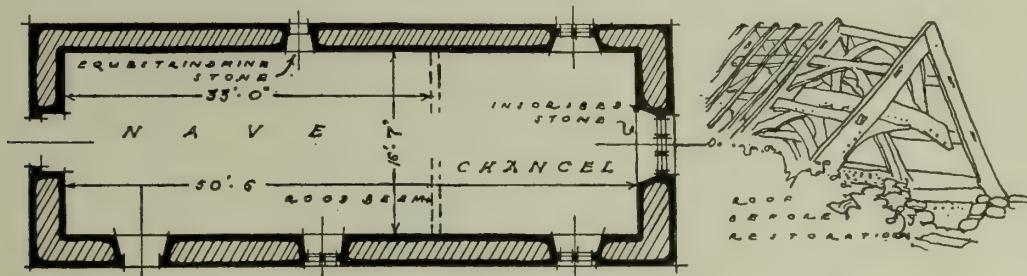


Fig. 77.

downwards. This must have been done before the year 1698, about which date Edward Lhuyd visited the parish or received his information about the inscription. (*Parochialia*, ii, 96). The font has been removed to the new church of St. Tanwg at Harlech, which place is within the parish of Llandanwg. Octagonal in form, the bowl has a quatrefoil on each of the flat panels, and two ogee-headed ornaments on the splayed panels below, and the latter decoration is repeated on the pillar and base. The total height of the font is 3 feet 1 inch, the exterior diameter of the bowl 2 feet 2 inches, and the depth 7 inches. Its date is *circa* A.D. 1500.

The churchyard has a comparatively recent lychgate. The gravestones, of which the oldest seen were dated 1696 and 1699, are again being covered with drifting sand. Here is buried Sion Phyli of Mochras, the poet and botanist, who died in 1620.—Visited, 10th July, 1914.

Glynne, 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1901, VI, i, 135.

[Illustrated, figs. 74 and 27.]

### Inscribed Stones.

(i) Amongst the entries under the Parish of Festiniog, and in connection with the account there given of Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy (No. 65), reference is made to an inscribed stone which is said at one time to have stood on or near the site of the Beddau, the Graves of the Men of Ardudwy.

It may be recalled that in the year 1694 Mr. J. E. Jones of Ruthin gave Mr. Lhuyd the following information:—

I have seen part of the stone brought from Bedheu gwyr Ardudwy, with these words, *FERRVCI HIC IACIT*, the stone being broken in the next line and laid in the church wall. (*Parochialia*, iii, 108).

Lhuyd's account (Gibson's edition of Camden's *Britannia*) is that

One of the next neighbours informs me that about twelve years since he saw amongst other stones brought hence [Beddau gwyr Ardudwy] to mend the walls of Festiniog Church one with an inscription; but at present there remains no account of it. By the description he gives of it I suppose it Roman. For he says 'twas a polish'd stone, about two foot long, half a yard broad, and three or four inches thick.

The first point to note is that Lhuyd's two accounts of the removal of the Beddau stone were probably derived from one and the same informant, Mr. J. E. Jones of Ruthin, and it is possible that several communications passed between them upon the subject. Be this so or not, Lhuyd in the account of the graves which he drew up for the *Britannia* (published in 1695) states on the authority of "one of the next neighbours" that the removal took place about "twelve years ago": that is, about the year 1682. Whether Mr. Jones of Ruthin was the "neighbour" in question matters little; the important fact is that from one communication (the letter of Mr. Jones of the 30th December, 1694) Lhuyd learnt the suggested wording of the inscription, and from another communication he knew that the stone had been removed from what was doubtless its original site.

Again, it is clear that Lhuyd himself never saw the stone in Festiniog church or churchyard wall. The manner in which he refers to the information obtained from "one of the next neighbours" seems to indicate direct personal enquiries concerning it; but the stone had disappeared from the position it occupied in 1682, and nobody of whom enquiries were made could tell what had become of it.

Now, hidden away in the practically deserted church of Llandanwg, 15 miles from the site of the graves of the Men of Ardudwy, and 13 miles from Festiniog church, is an inscribed stone which is suggested to be the stone supposed missing in Edward

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Lhuyd's day, and not recognised by him when it came under his notice in an unexpected place.

The Llandanwg stone is built into the eastern wall of the old church of the parish, now unused for public worship except upon special and infrequent occasions. The stone forms the support to the gable above the small east window of the building. The window is 7 feet wide, and the length of the stone, which must be from one to two feet more, was doubtless the reason why it was chosen for the position it occupies at a time when it may have been found necessary to restore or partially reconstruct the eastern wall. Happily it was placed in position with the inscription face downwards, so that, faint as it is, the presence of something in the nature of lettering is visible upon the stone to the gazer from below; but unfortunately, the position renders the taking of a rubbing exceedingly difficult, and of a *good* rubbing almost impossible, while it is equally out of the range of a clear photograph. So far, however, as the rubbings already taken are decipherable, it may be considered as certain that one word of the inscription is thus rendered:—EANV-I (with a ligulated AN), and that this is preceded by the letters IN. Whether there are other letters still further to the left it is at present impossible to say.

Now, concerning the stone removed from the site of Beddau Gwyr Arduwy, or from the immediate vicinity of the site, it will be remembered that Mr. Jones of Ruthin gives the words inscribed thereon as FERRVCI HIC IACIT, and he adds that the stone was broken "in the next line."

If, as we have already suggested, Lhuyd's sole authority for (i) the existence of an inscribed stone at (or near) the site of the Beddau, which stone was removed to Festiniog churchyard, (ii) the reading of the inscription as FERRVCI HIC IACIT, was this same Mr. J. E. Jones, we have to set against these statements the fact that that gentleman was referring to circumstances which had taken place twelve years previously, and—apart from the difficulty of reading the inscription by even an experienced epigraphist—that he might have forgotten the exact spelling of the principal word in the inscription.

There is also the extremely important fact that Lhuyd himself could not discover the stone at Festiniog. It is evident that he personally, or one of his assistants, had made careful enquiries as to its whereabouts, for he remarks, "at present [i.e., *circa* 1695] there is no account of it."

But he did discover, or was told about, the inscribed stone at Llandanwg. There appears in one of Lhuyd's note-books (National Library of Wales, Llanstephan 185, fo. 89), produced by the Cambrian Archaeological Association under the title of *Parochialia* (part ii, p. 96), the following entry (as printed)

IN EAV V—I  
I . . APP . . .

Notwithstanding this very plain indication it does not appear that it entered the minds of either the editor of Lhuyd's note-books, or any Merionethshire antiquary, to search for the stone in question. Suffice it to say that when inspection of the church was made it was discovered in the very position that it occupied when seen by Lhuyd.

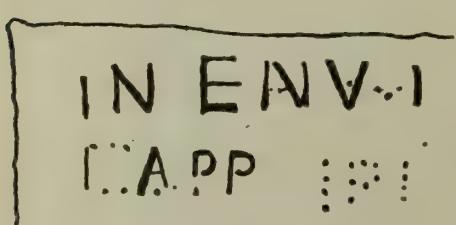


Fig. 78.

The difficulties alluded to in the decipherment of the inscription and in obtaining a good rubbing of it, had been already experienced by Lhuyd, since his result is as unsatisfactory as our own. But it is only just to the great scholar to say that the reproduction of the entry in his note-book in the Cambrian Archaeological Association's edition does not correctly represent Lhuyd's actual sketch. Accompanying is a photographic reproduction of the entry.

In view of the discrepant readings here presented it would be futile to enter upon a philological disquisition into the correct rendering of the inscription on the Llandanwg stone. The primary duty is to make sure of the full extent of the inscription and the accurate decipherment of the letters, and this is not to be accomplished whilst the stone remains in its present position.

It remains to determine whether the Llandanwg stone is the same as the Beddau stone which is said to have been removed to Festiniog churchyard.

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Indisputable proof of this point is, of course, not procurable. There is the negative evidence of Lhuyd that at the date when he wrote his account of the Graves (c. 1694-5) the stone was not to be found at Festiniog. The positive evidence consists only of what is to be derived from a careful comparison of the different readings of the important word in the inscription—**FERRVCI**, according to Mr. J. E. Jones, writing twelve years later than his personal knowledge of it; **EANV-I**, according to Lhuyd and the writer of the present article. That such apparently different readings do derive from a single source will be a matter of little doubt to those who know the possibilities of diverse decipherments presented by these ancient and often very indistinct inscriptions. The only serious evidence to the contrary consists of Mr. Jones's statement that the Ferrvci stone was broken "in the next line," whereas Lhuyd's sketch shows a stone with two lines; and if we could suppose that Jones's **FERRVCI HIC IACIT** had the last two words on a second line beneath the personal name, it is still impossible to argue that his **Hic Iacit** is represented by any part of Lhuyd's second line. It is, of course, possible that Mr. Jones's term "broken" may have reference only to an abrasion or flaking of the surface of the stone.

Whatever may be the true explanation and reconciliation of the admitted differences between the readings, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the inscription which both Jones and Lhuyd record is one and the same; and, consequently, that the stone which once stood on or near the site of Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy is the same with that now built into the east wall of the ancient parish church of Llandanwg.

This church was restored by the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings in the year 1884, and so conservative were the operations of the Society that the stone was left where it had been placed, though it is difficult to credit that it could have been missed by the Society's architect. It is to be hoped that some Welsh organization possessing funds (such as the Archaeological Section of the Board of Celtic Studies, or the Cambrian Archaeological Association) will remove it from its present position, and by placing it beneath the hospitable roof of the National Museum of Wales will make it easy of study.

It is, of course, idle to speculate upon the circumstances which led to the removal of the stone, first from the region of the Beddau to Festiniog, and thence to Llandanwg, if indeed its temporary seclusion at Festiniog is not an error of Lhuyd's correspondent. But the suggestion may be permitted that somewhere in the period between 1682 and 1694 the churchwardens of Llandanwg found themselves faced with the frequently recurring problem of the repair of their parish church. On this occasion it was the east window, perhaps the original small single or double light, that in the humid atmosphere of the western coast had become too far ruined for further patching, and, funds being low, it was determined to put in a plain square window, that at least had the twofold merit of being cheap and of introducing more light. For this purpose a stone of sufficient size to bridge the opening over the new window was necessary for the support of the superstructure, and chance may have thrown the long boulder in Festiniog churchyard wall into the hands of the churchwardens. At any rate there is the stone, whatever may have been its wanderings, which it may be hoped are nearly ended.

ii. There is a second inscribed stone within the church, now built into the north wall. The inscription reads—**EQUESTRI NOMINE**.

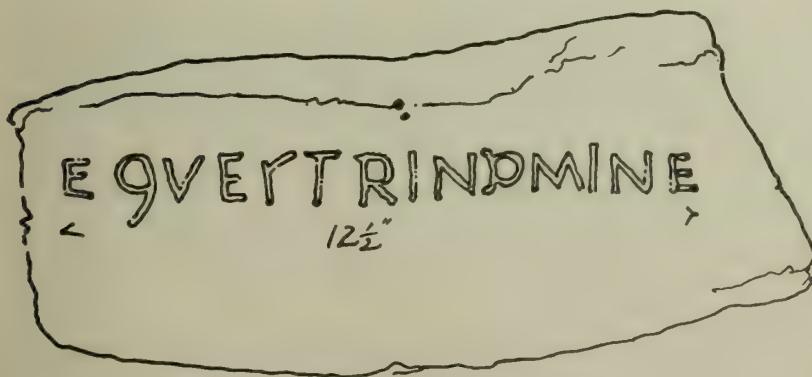


Fig. 79.

two miles from Tomen y Mur, on the line of the road from that station to Conovium.

It is obvious that it is part of a longer inscription dating probably from the years immediately subsequent to the withdrawal of the Roman administrative officials, and perhaps taken from a Romano-British cemetery which, following the Roman custom, seems to have existed at the entrance to the mountain valley about

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## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

165. *Ffynnon Fair, Harlech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 39''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 27''$ ).

This spring rises on the east side of the Castle Hill, about 10 feet beyond the castle wall. There is no well, or ever has been, and nothing beyond a small cavity formed by the fall of the water. This makes its ascription to the Virgin difficult of belief. The water still flows from the spring, but the spot is neglected, and the surface around is very boggy.—Visited, 13th July, 1914.

NOTE.—There was unquestionably a chapel outside the walls of the castle. Fenton in 1808 was told that “there had been a chapel and a place of interment opposite to the Castle . . . his informant had taken the site to make tanpits of, and in digging them, he fell on several skeletons, without anything like a covering of a coffin of wood or stone, in the bed of marl.” (*Tours in Wales*, ed. Camb. Arch. Assoc., 1917, p. 104.)

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

166. *Ruined Buildings* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 3''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 44''$ ).

In a field called ‘Gerddi gleision,’ ‘greenery gardens,’ belonging to the farm of Merthyr, are several ruined chambers or structures which it is difficult to classify.

One enclosure is rectangular, about 9 yards by 6, with a slight outward curve at one end ; the second is perfectly right-angled, and about the same size as the first ; the third is also right-angled, about 13 yards by  $5\frac{1}{2}$ . There is a spring in this enclosure, which is very ruinous, and the surface is very wet. A doorway is placed in the north end of the west wall. A fourth chamber measures about 6 yards by 4. All these chambers adjoin, and ruins of another building are scattered about. The walls are on an average 3 feet high, but the whole is so covered with debris and rank vegetation that it is impossible to make out the character of the walling.—Visited, 2nd September, 1914.

NOTE.—There is reference in an account of the temporalities of the bishop of Bangor, in 22nd Rich. II, to ‘Merthir in Ewyonnyth,’ but the Merthyr now in question is in Arduudwy uwch Artro. It is probable that the ruins are those of a small well-chapel which was placed on the line of an important mediæval trackway, and the name ‘Merthyr,’ takes it back to the days of the independent Welsh Church.

167. *Ancient Trackway* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W.)

The trackway which is referred to in the last article is unquestionably old, though possibly no older than the medieval period. It enters the parish from that of Llanfair (where it is partially described—see No. 330) at lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 48''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 30''$  just where the Ordnance sheet shows the bench mark of 900.7. Shortly after it divides, one branch skirting the western slopes of Moel Goedog ; the other and more important branch going directly northward. It has an average width of 10 feet, and is roughly cobbled here and there. Many upright guide stones are dotted along its course.—Traversed, 7th July, 1914.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

168. *Cae'r Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 38''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 8''$ ).

A field of this name on the farm of Foel has about its centre a ruined cairn composed of large and small stones, to which have been added clearances from the field. The mound is on a ridge, and is between 3 and 4 feet high ; its diameter is about 14 feet.—Visited, 7th July, 1914.

169. *Maen Eglwys* (see under LLANFAIR, No. 338).

170. *Twt Hill, Harlech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 30''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 34''$ ).

In a survey of Harlech Castle taken in 1564 the Castle green is described as “extending from a place called Ffynnon Vaire to the Tutt hill” (*Arch. Camb.*, 1846 I, i, 250). The name is now applied to a house on a slope south of the castle.—Visited, 13th July, 1914.

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## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

171. *Stone Implements*.—“Flakes not of flint, but of a hard silicious grit, occurred in a cist with burnt bones near Harlech (*Arch. Journal*, ix, 92); and of some other hard stone in a cist in Merionethshire (*Arch. Camb.*, II, iii, 102).” Evans, *Stone Implements*, 1897, p. 279.

171A. *Bronze Palstave*. In the British Museum is a bronze looped palstave, which is said to have been found “near Harlech.”

[Illustrated, fig. 151 (4).]

171AA. *Bronze Celt*, also said to have been found near Harlech, and now in the British Museum.

[Illustrated, fig. 151 (5).]

171B. *Bronze dagger*.—“I have a dagger 11½ inches long from Harlech, which is even narrower in the blade than the Coveney example, but it has lost its edges by erosion” (Evans, *Bronze Implements*, p. 248).

171C. *Bronze Buckler*.—On the 1st February, 1850, Mr. W. W. E. Wynne exhibited to the Archaeological Institute what is described in *Arch. Journal*, vii, 77, as

A round buckler of thin bronze plate, with a central boss, on the reverse of which is a handle. The heads of the four rivets for holding the handle and the two buttons are visible in the spaces between the ribs. It is ornamented with seven concentric ribbed or raised circles. It was found in a peat moss, at a depth of about 12 inches, near a very perfect cromlech, about 400 yards south-east of Harlech, and lay in an erect position as Mr. Wynne had clearly ascertained by the marks perceptible in the peat where it was found. One part, being near the surface, had, in consequence, become decayed, but the remainder is in excellent preservation. It measures, in diameter, 22 inches.

On the following August it was exhibited to the Cambrian Archaeological Association at Dolgelly, when it was described as having been found in the year 1848 near a cromlech on the farm of Gwern Einion (No. 321). This farm is about a mile and a half south of Harlech; so that there is some discrepancy between the two statements on a very important detail.

[Illustrated, figs. 30, 31.]

[For the discovery of several articles of the Romano-British period, see under Llanenddwyn (No. 305 below).]

171D. *Roman Urn* (? *Porphyry*) and *Coins*.—In the Cambrian Archaeological Association’s edition of Mr. Edward Lhuyd’s topographical notes and papers under the title *Parochialia*, pt. iii, p. 100, is a letter dated April (?), 1704, to Lhuyd from Mr. C. N. Eyre, then constable of Harlech Castle. This runs:—“An Urn of Porphyry filled with medall, dug up at Harlech Castle about 8 or 9 years since by a virtuoso who is a Phisithian who is gone to the East Indies—he was at a friend’s house near the Castle—sould it for 30 guineas before he left England. He gave me some of the medals. I am told by a Medalist they are of the lower Empire, not of any great antiquity—Constantius, Gallienus, Claudius Gothicus, Tetricus, Victorinus Posthumus, and severall others.”

171E. *Gold torc*.—The same letter proceeds:—“1692 was dug up very near to Castle a golden Torques (or a wreath’d bar of Gold) of 3 or 4 twists about 4 feet in length.” Lhuyd had already described this object in his additions to Gibson’s edition of Camden’s *Britannia*, 1695, col. 658, thus:—“In the year 1692 an ancient golden Torques was dug up in a garden somewhere near this castle of Harlech. It’s a wreathed bar of gold (or rather perhaps three or four rods joyntly twisted) about four foot long; flexil [sic], but bending naturally only one way, in form of a hat-band; hooked at both ends exactly (that I may describe it intelligibly, though in vulgar terms) like a pair of pot-hooks; but these hooks are not twisted as the rest of the rod, nor are their ends sharp, but plain, and as it were cut even. It’s of a round form, about an inch in circumference, weighs eight ounces, and is all over so plain that it needs no further description.” This torc is now at Mostyn Hall. An exactly similar object was found on the northern slope of Cader Idris, and is now at Wynnstay (see No. 33).

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## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

172. *Carnedd Wen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 15''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 29' 15''$ ).

This carnedd has been much disturbed, and only a few stones of the interior remain, though its outer sides are still formed of fairly large boulders standing about 4 feet high. It measures 48 feet east and west, and 32 feet north and south. Within the carnedd proper, and towards its northern side, a mound of stones has been erected; and built outside the line of the carnedd but contiguous to its southern face, are two shepherds' huts now in ruins.—Visited, 22nd July, 1913.

## DIVISION Id (STONE CIRCLES).

173. *Caer Euni circles* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.W.).

On the long ridge of high ground which runs parallel with the main road from Bala to Corwen for a distance of about two miles on the northern side of the highway, stands the fine defensive work called Caer Euni which is described below (No. 174). In addition to the camp there are two stone circles which in all probability are the uncleared surface stones of the external ring of two dismantled cairns. The site of the largest circle is at lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 25''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 29' 55''$ , about 130 yards south-west of the western end of the Hafod Tudur enclosures, and 30 yards from the track-way sometimes called Sarn Elen. The diameter of the circle is 34 feet from north to south and 33 feet from east to west. There are 22 stones visible in the line of the circumference, but some gaps occur owing probably to the sinking or covering of the smaller or less exposed boulders.

Twelve feet to the south-east of the circle are a few stones, of which six are visible, which appear to have formed the exterior ring of a smaller circle. The stones in this instance seem to have been placed upon a low earthen bank now hardly traceable on the eastern side. The diameter of this bank was about 24 feet north to south and 22 feet east to west.—Visited, 14th June, 1913.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

174. *Caer Euni* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 34''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 29' 18''$ ).

This is an oval earthwork occupying the nearly flat top of the ridge that runs parallel to the main road between Bala and Corwen; the direction of the ridge and of the camp is north-east and south-west. On its southern side the hill is exceedingly precipitous, but the land to the north stands at a much higher average level, with the result that in primitive times the camp was far more open to attack from that side. It also follows that the strongest defences are to the north. These consist of a single bank with a ditch beyond. Neither bank nor ditch was of the height or depth usually attained in camps of the type of Caer Euni, but both assume a formidable character as they approach the narrow ends or extremities of the enclosure. The outer side of the ditch on the north, and the two ends up to the curve on the south side, are defended by a strong bank. The south side being very steep, and the drop to the valley level being from 300 to 400 feet, was left without artificial defences other than a low bank which still remains at some points, and was probably intended to prevent cattle from straying over the edge rather than for defence. The entrances were, as usual, placed at the narrow ends of the enclosure; they are slightly incurved, and the half-circle thus formed is deepened within, affording better protection to the defenders of the gate. These have been taken to be sites of hut circles, but it is unlikely that such habitations on Caer Euni would have been placed at the most dangerous points of the camp, especially as there are no appearances of hut dwellings within the enclosure. Two ruined stone cairns placed near the middle of the camp are said to have been formed in modern times. Caer Euni enclosure bears considerable resemblance, as well in its details as in its general plan, to the fine camp of Cefn Carnedd in the parish of Llandinam, co. Montgomery,

## Parish of LLANDDERFEL.

and in a somewhat lesser degree to Cefn Castell in the parish of Middletown in the same county; this is more especially the case in the division of each enclosure into two almost equal parts by a low cross bank.

The stones in the northern fosse of Caer Euni bear signs of the application of great heat, which has led to the supposition that the banks of the camp were vitrified; but the appearance is due to the presence of clinkers of manganese ore which is found in the neighbourhood.

The enclosure contains no spring of water, but a tiny stream traverses the valley below, and a path doubtless led down the steep slope, though there are no indications of one. An ancient trackway to which the name Sarn Elen is sometimes given runs along the south-eastern flank of the hill, but it has no direct communication with the camp, and is probably of much later construction.

A word may be said as to the name. This is often given as Caer Creini, or a variation of that form. The earliest appearance of it seems to be the tract of Dr. Sion Dafydd Rhys in Peniarth MS. 118, where it is stated (fo. 830) that—

Iwini Gawr lived in the commote of Penllyn in a place still called Cefn Caer Iwini, and the place where are still the remains of his old castle (transcript and translation in *Y Cymroddor*, 1917, xxvii, 129).

This clearly points to an early traditional defensive position.

Robert Vaughan (died 1666), in some archaeological notes on the county, mentions it thus—

In the parish of Llandderfel there is a mountain called Cefn Crwyni, about whereof is a great military trench.

Mr. Edward Lhuyd's correspondent, the Rev. John Lloyd, has an interesting letter on the place (*Arch. Camb.*, 1851, II, ii, 54). The height he calls "Cefn Corwuni-Crwnni, or more commonly Creini," and adds an interesting thumb-nail sketch of the camp. Caer Euni or Eini in course of time would be shortened to Creini, and to signify a camp the word "caer" would again be introduced.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1881, IV, xii, 307, with plan and illustration (W. Wynn Williams).

[Illustrated, fig. 34.]

175. *Ty llwyd or Cefn byrloes earthwork* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 50''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 32' 14''$ ).

On the high ground immediately above the little village of Cefn ddwysarn are the remains of a nearly circular enclosure which has been so completely obliterated as to present few features by which it can be classified. There are in some places signs of a low bank, and boulders arranged in a segment of a circle prove that something in the nature of a round enclosure once occupied the position. In other places are indications of a shallow ditch which may originally have been continuous, but is not so now. It is, however, impossible to regard the enclosure as originally constructed for a defensive camp, inasmuch as it is placed on the slope of a hill open to attack on all sides. It is more probably an early cattle enclosure.—Visited, 16th May, 1913.

NOTE.—In the Manuscripts Department of the British Museum (*Stowe Collection* 753, fo. 55) is a letter dated 14th March, 174 $\frac{1}{2}$  written by the Rev. George Griffiths, rector of Llanycil, to the Rev. Charles Lyttelton, then dean of Exeter and later bishop of Carlisle, in which the following remark occurs:—"I have the very same notion with you, good Sir, about Pen y Gaer in Llandderfel parish, that is its being a place of worship really (*in margin*) the inhabitants say that a gyant lived there." Many years later, in a communication to the Society of Antiquaries of London (of which he was President in 1765), Bishop Lyttelton referred to this tradition. His words are:—"The vast fortification called Pen y Gair at Llandderfel in Merionethshire, is said by the neighbouring inhabitants to have been made by Giants; and the like fabulous tradition occurs in many other places. But after all, this monument may perhaps be Danish" (*Archæologia*, 1773, ii, 51).

The remarks of both writers would appear to relate to a large hill-camp in Llandderfel parish which they call Pen y Gaer, but at the present time that name is not in use for either the fine camp of Caer Euni (No. 174), or that at Cefn ddwysarn, and the expression "vast fortification" cannot at any time have been applicable to the latter.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (CASTLE MOUNTS WITH ATTACHED COURTS).

176. *Crogen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 15''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 28' 44''$ ).

Behind the residence of Crogen is a mound of the Norman motte type, but it is probable that the Crogen example was thrown up by one of the Welsh chieftains

## Parish of LLANDDERFEL.

who called themselves barons of [the commote of] Edeirnion. The mound stands within a few yards of the river Dee, and may originally have had its moat supplied from the river, though there is now no sure indication of a moat. The mound rests on a base of natural rock, but is itself composed of earth. It is about 18 feet high, has a flat summit with a diameter of about 36 feet. Its sides are steep, and now densely clothed with trees. There are no signs of a bailey, but it probably possessed such an enclosure, which would almost certainly have been placed on the side where at a much later period the present house of Crogen was built (see next art.).—Visited, 22nd July, 1913.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

177. *Crogen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 15''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 28' 44''$ ).

The present residence is a building of the late 18th or early 19th century, and possesses few features of interest to the antiquary. One of these, however,

serves to connect it with an earlier residence which occupied the same site, and adds another example to the many that are found of the abandonment of the wooden dwellings that crowned the tops of these mounds, for a less confined position immediately beneath (see illustration of old Rûg, fig. 46). This is the top of a late Decorated window which was doubtless the principal window in the medieval hall, and still remains *in situ*. The walling around it is possibly original, but of this it is manifestly impossible to speak without a

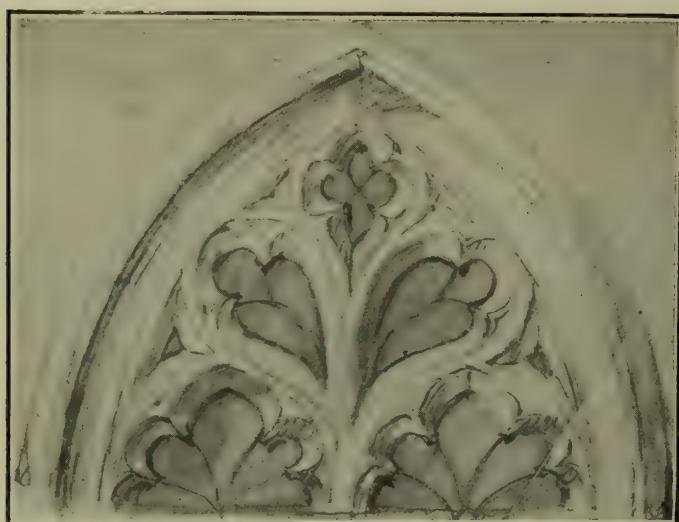


Fig. 80.

careful examination of the structure.—Visited, 22nd July, 1913.

178. *Henblas* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 40''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 30' 17''$ ).

The present house of Henblas was built about the commencement of the 18th century, doubtless taking the place of an earlier dwelling, as its name indicates. A part of this earlier structure, as of the farm buildings that were attached to it, appears to have survived in a rectangular building, 22 feet by 29 feet, adjoining the present house. This building is divided into two unequal parts by an oaken partition, having three pointed openings, above which is the rude roof timbering. It was probably a fine barn erected in the 16th century, of which a part has been converted into a cow-house.—Visited, 18th June, 1913.

## DIVISION IV (STONE STRUCTURES—ECCLESIASTICAL).

179. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet; Mer. 15 S.W.). Ded: St. Derfel 'gadarn,' or 'the valiant.'\* Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural deanery of Penllyn; townships of Crogen, Doldrewyn, Llan, Llawr y Bettws or Hengaer, Nant Ffreuar, Tregynlos, Selwrn.

The church is a parallelogram with no structural division between nave and chancel, except a rather elaborate rood screen and loft, north and south porches,

\* Up to at least the close of the 17th century there was a stained-glass figure of St. Trillo in one of the windows of Llandderfel church, of which a rude drawing is preserved in one of Edward Lhuyd's note-books (Peniarth, 251) now in the National Library of Wales, and which is reproduced here. The lettering is of the early 16th century.

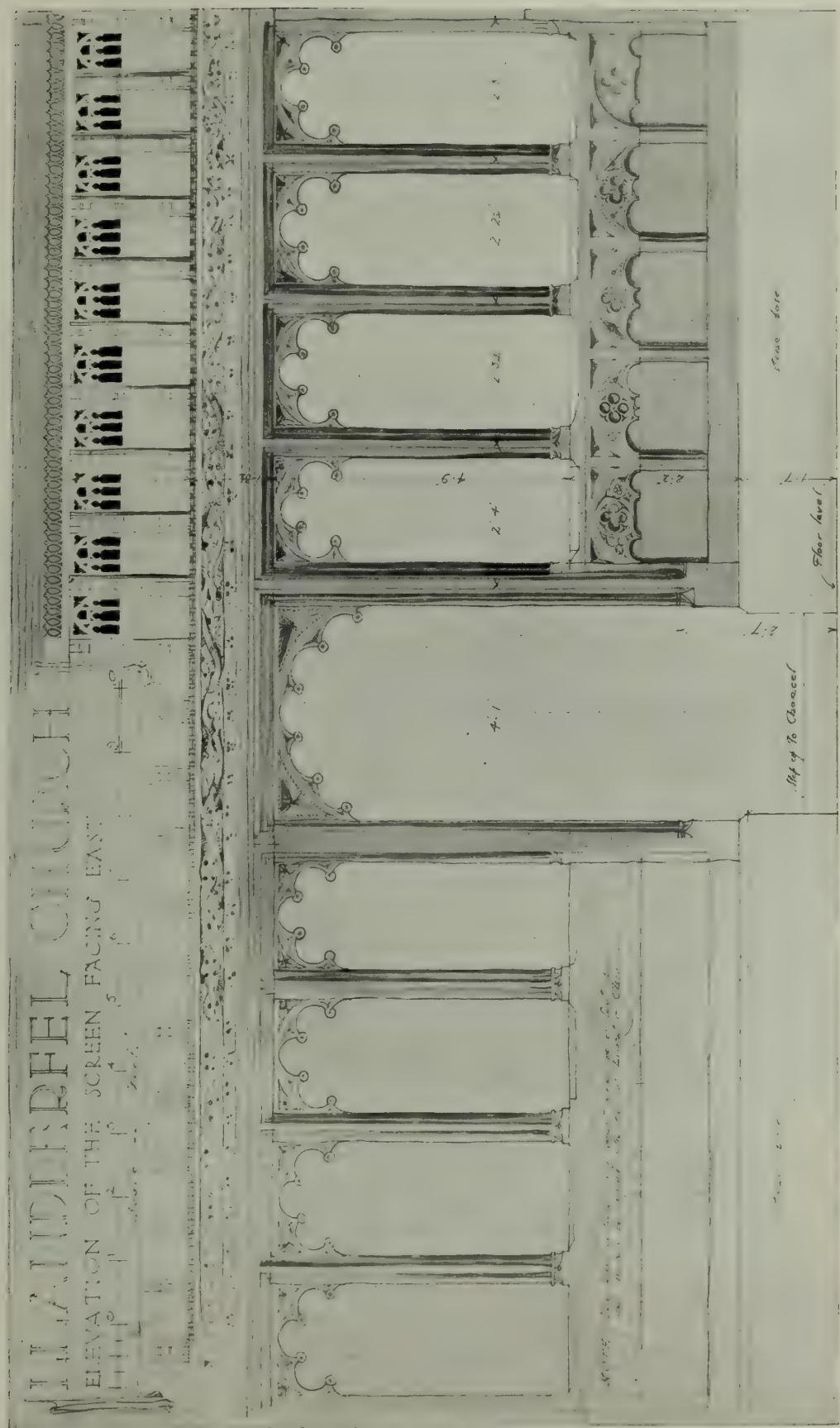


FIG. 81. LLANDDERFEL: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 179); screen.



*In the North window at Llandderfel Church*



Sc̄ns Trillo: abbat:  
Orate pro sancto: honore: sp:  
qm .... e: o... fieri: fecerunt:

Fig. 81A.

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and western bell gable. With the exception of the porches, which are later, the church is entirely of the Perpendicular style, built about the year 1500. The screen is of the same period, but the panelling has been renewed; it measures 23 feet across. Of the roof timbers four trusses are on the nave side and two on the chancel side of the screen. The east window is of much beauty. It is of four lights, with well-arranged tracery in the head. The windows on each side of the chancel are of three lights, and all the remaining windows of the church are good. The font is new, but what is said to be the old font basin is serving as a flower pot in the Vicarage garden; it has two lugs or ears at either side of the bowl, and it is questionable if it be the original font of the church, though it may have served as such during the dark period of church degradation and neglect.

Llandderfel church at the time of the Reformation possessed a feature that was held in much popular esteem in a figure of its patron saint, Derfel. No life of Derfel is known to exist, and apart from the proof afforded by the unquestionable custom of the Welsh of calling the churches by the name of the saint who had founded them, there is no particle of anything approaching valid evidence for the very existence of Derfel. However, there can be no doubt that in the middle ages a widely diffused cult of the saint had grown up and caused much resort to the saint's church and much profit to its clergy. The latter is probably the explanation of the great restoration which the church exhibits, amounting to entire rebuilding in a far superior manner than could be afforded by the poor parishes of Merioneth.

In popular belief Derfel was regarded as having been a redoubtable warrior, hence his epithet 'cadarn,' 'strong' or 'valiant,' and a rude wooden figure in the church depicted him as a knight, possibly of one of the military monastic orders, on horseback. It is unfortunate that the story which doubtless was forthcoming to explain the style in which Derfel was figured, has not been preserved, but it must have been such as to excite public imagination. During the journey of Cromwell's visitors through Wales in the year 1535 they heard of the fame of the Llandderfel wonder-working image, and at once took steps to remove the object of superstition. The wooden horseman was wrenched from his seat and sent up to the king's council in London, where it was added to the pile that consumed the unfortunate Jesuit, Father Forrest. The lower part of the image consisting of the horse and what has been styled the knight's "staff" were left behind, and have ever since been preserved in the church; they are now placed in the porch—an interesting example of the strength of religious credulity which has thus triumphed over the iconoclastic forces of early and later Puritanism. The horse was painted to display the caparisons of a warrior, and there are still traces of dull red upon the figure. This colouring, together with the position of the animal, which is portrayed as resting upon its form with its four legs gathered together underneath the body, and perhaps the addition of a spreading ornament on the head intended to represent plumes or waving feathers, may have led to the idea that the animal was intended for a stag.\*

\*In the church register for 1598-1613 is a copy of a letter which was addressed by the rector and churchwardens to the bishop of St. Asaph. It runs as follows:—"Right Revd. Father, May it please your Lo'pp to be hereby advertised that according to your Lo'pps direction and order we the Rector of and Churchwardens of Llan Dervell have received a convenient and decent sett vacant place for a Minister[s] seate within the bodye of the said church to reade morning and evening prayers for the better audiens and understanding of deaffe, aged, and illeterat people, which vacant place lieth there on the north side of the said church being in length to the quantitie of two yards from the church wall there towards the cornell at the end of Evan Lloyd Jefferie's seate and in breadth a yard and a quarter from the said seate downwards, where there is now a wooden image of a Redd Stagg as a relique of the image of Dervell Gadarn, which place we present to be vacant, and that none hath any right or title thereto, or to any parte thereof. Thus humbly taking leave, your Lo'pp in an humble duty. Dated the viii daye of November, 1626." The wooden figure upon which that of the saint was placed is intended to represent a horse and not a stag; and what is regarded as St. Derfel's staff is more probably a pole for the suspension of a curtain (figs. 38, 39).

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Mutilated as the figure is, it is one of the most interesting objects of medieval archæology in the kingdom, and steps should be taken for its careful preservation.

In the churchyard the earliest gravestone noticed is dated 1639. The dial shaft is modern, but the plate is of the year 1751 or 1754.

Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph* (1912), iii, 95; Glynne, 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1885, V, ii, 33.

NOTE.—It has been said above that there is no evidence for the existence of Derfel in the county of Merioneth beyond the dedication of this church to him. But it should be remembered that there was another church dedicated to Derfel, namely the church of Penrhys in the Rhondda Valley; and there is a ruined church of Llandderfel on Mynydd Maen in the parish of Llantarnam, Co. Monmouth. There is no account of the suppression of a cult of St. Dervel in South Wales, but it is certain that he was the subject of popular superstition there as well as in Merioneth.

[*Illustrated, figs. 38, 39, 81.*]

**DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).**

180. *Fynnon Derfel* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 20''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 31' 13''$ ).

There is no well at the present time at the spot where the water gushes forth in which adult bathing could have taken place or to which vaticinatory offerings could have been made; there is merely a stone slab about 2 feet long, which, with some rude masonry, protects the spring and forms a small reservoir, about 4 feet wide. The water escapes at one side of the stone, and runs along the east side of the field. If bathing or cleansing formed part of the cult of the saint it is difficult to believe that this is Derfel's original well; it may be, as has frequently happened, that the original watercourse has changed its direction.—Visited, 20th June, 1913.

**DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).**

181. *Sarn Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E. and N.W.).

This old trackway enters the northern part of Llandderfel parish from the parish of Llandrillo at lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 17''$ , long  $3^{\circ} 27' 45''$ , and passes through the farm yards of Hengaer—a very suggestive name—ucha and issa, having a generally northern direction. It probably passed as far north as Llawr y Bettws, or even as Ty'n y fron (lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 20''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 36''$ ), but it has now become obscure and sometimes disappears altogether.

Another early track is picked up at Ty'n y bwlch (15 N.W., lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 8''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 28' 43''$ ), but having a south-westerly direction, and this ultimately develops into a road much like the Sarn Elen. It passes along the north side of the ridge of Caer Euni, still pursuing a south-westerly course, and making for the direction of Sarnau in Llanfor parish. It may be described in general terms as a green track from 5 to 12 feet broad, with a low bank on one side and occasionally on both. There is nowhere any sign of careful pitching.—Traversed, 14th June, 1913.

182. *Old Road* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 45''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 29' 30''$ ).

Near the farm of Cae pant are traces of an old road which is frequently called Roman. Its direction is mainly east and west, and its course is irregular. At the spot above indicated it is 5 feet wide at the road level, and has a bank on each side. It soon becomes lost.—Visited, 28th July, 1913.

**DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).**

183. *Hengaer Ucha and Issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 45''$  and  $55''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 40''$  and  $45''$ ).

These are two farms that at one time probably consisted of a single holding, and the name 'Hengaer' (*the old caer*) was doubtless derived from its near proximity to the important camp of Caer Euni.—Visited, 14th June, 1913.



FIG. 35. BETTWS GWERFIL GOCH: THE PARISH CHURCH; altar piece (No. 9).



FIG. 37. LLANFOR: THE PARISH CHURCH; detail of chancel screen (No. 366).



FIG. 38. LLANDDERFEL: THE PARISH CHURCH; wooden fitting (No. 179).



FIG. 39. LLANDDERFEL: THE PARISH CHURCH; St. Derfel's horse (No. 179).



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184. *Site of cairn on Mynydd Mynyllod* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 20''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 28' 20''$ ).

About the year 1698 Mr. Edward Lhuyd thus described a cairn on the high land called Mynydd Mynyllod:—"Arffedoged y wrach (*vulgo* Ffedoged) ar Vynolhod a galwant garnedh o gerig"; *i.e.*, "The Witch's apron" they call a stone cairn on Mynyllod," and it is very probable that the mound occupied the spot indicated. The farmer of Braich ddu said that he remembers a cairn here which was demolished about half a century ago, the materials being doubtless used for building the enclosure of Llwyn braich ddu less than 200 yards west of the site.—Visited, 16th May, 1913.

184a. *Pen y Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet; Mer. 23 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 18''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 50''$ ).

This is a site on the summit of the Berwyn range of hills at 2,317 feet above Ordnance datum. It is a spot on the boundary line between the counties of Merioneth and Montgomery, where doubtless at one time stood a carnedd, and where are still the remains of a mound erected for trigonometrical purposes.

185. *Pen y bryn cairn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 49''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 29' 6''$ ).

The site of a cairn was pointed out by the occupier of Pen y bryn farm which was ploughed over and the larger stones removed about thirty years ago.—Visited, 16th May, 1913.

186. *Cistfaen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 13''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 29' 22''$ ).

This is the name of a farm (Y Gistfaen) which doubtless at one time had upon it a mound of stones containing a cist which may have been exposed in an early treasure hunt. Some large stones are built into the walls leading to the house from the south which have the appearance of the slabs of a cist.—Visited, 1st July, 1913.

187. *Y Gaergoed* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 3''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 10''$ ).

The farmhouse called 'Y Gaergoed' or as pronounced 'Y Gargoed,' occupies the summit of a hill which at present shows no traces of defensive works. But a partly filled-up hollow or trench was observed in a field called 'Bryn' on the left-hand side of the cartway leading from Y Gargoed fawr to the public road opposite Glan yr afon. "Tyddyn Bryn y Gargoed" is mentioned so early as 1592 in *Land Revenue Miscell's Book No. 236* now in the Public Record Office, so that the site is one of considerable antiquity.—Visited, 14th June, 1913.

188. *Cae'r garreg, 'the field of the stone'* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 37''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 29' 44''$ ).

This field contains a large boulder about 9 feet long; it has possibly no archaeological significance.—Visited, 19th June, 1913.

189. *Ffridd y garreg, 'the enclosure of the stone'* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 46''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 30' 33''$ ).

In the field indicated (Tithe Schedule, No. 1053) is a large square boulder about 9 feet high standing in the hedge. It may have no archaeological significance.—Visited, 28th May, 1913.

190. *Dol y gadfa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 17''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 29' 16''$ ).

This is the name of a farmhouse with which is connected a confused story of a battle. The names of the fields on the holding, said to be 'Dol yr ymladdfa' ('the meadow of slaughter') and 'Llanerch y bedd' ('the close of the grave') were

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unknown to the occupier. The latter name is possibly a corruption of 'Llanerch y baedd,' 'the boar's meadow,' which is the designation of a small holding near by.—Visited, 19th June, 1913.

191. *Bwlch garneddog* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 23''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 30' 43''$ ).

There are two or three irregular prominences in the neighbourhood of this house, but all are natural.—Visited, 1st July, 1913.

192. *Bryn y saint* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 22''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 30' 52''$ ).

This is the name of a hilly field north of and behind the rectory where in former times the village wakes were held.—Visited, 20th June, 1913.

193. *Llawr y Bettws Chapel* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 14''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 57''$ ).

The name Bettws bespeaks the presence of a small extra-parochial ecclesiastical edifice in this neighbourhood, but there appears to be no mention of it in the public records, and it had completely disappeared when Edward Lhuyd compiled his Notes (c. 1700). At that date the site was still remembered, being known as 'Erw'r Kapel,'\* church acre, and the township of Llawr y Bettws was ecclesiastically known as Bettws y Coed. The site is 220 yards north-west of Llawr y Bettws ucha farm, about the middle of the western hedge of a meadow called Ffridd ucha, under a large holly tree; many of the stones in the lower part of the footpath to this meadow may have formed part of the structure of the chapel.—Visited, 10th June, 1913.

NOTE.—Mr. J. Llewelyn Davies, head master of Llawr y Bettws county school says that "in spring when the pasture is growing a definite semi-circle may be noticed which is greener than the surrounding grass. This area is regarded as an old churchyard.† This much is certain: some years ago the nearest farm-house, Llawr y Bettws ucha, had new out buildings erected. The old buildings contained ancient beams and couplings similar to those seen in old churches, and Mr. H. M. Jones of Hengear Issa informs me that they bore evident marks of having been used in some previous edifice. The old buildings of Llawr y Bettws ucha were also it is said paved with gravestones, a circumstance that tends to show that one of the outbuildings of the farm was itself the chapel."

The civil name of this township was formerly 'Hengaer.' One of the witnesses in an Exchequer suit of the reign of Elizabeth speaks of "Bettws y coed commonly called Hengayr"; another witness described herself as of "Bettws in the town of Hengaer," and a third spoke of "Tythyn yr Hengaer in Bettws y coed" (Pub. Rec. Office: *Exchequer Depositions by Commission*; *Merioneth*, 31 Eliz. Easter, No. 26).

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

194. *Cistfaen.* The occupier of Y Gaergoed, Mr. John Jones, informed the Inspector that while digging in a field adjoining his house called 'Gaberth dew' (Ord. sheet, 15 N.E., about lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 4''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 15''$ ) he discovered a cistfaen composed of slabs set on edge, and containing reddish ashes. No further particulars could be obtained.

195. *Matrix.* A stone object which is described as a matrix for four impressions of small circular studs, one bearing letters and Roman figures, and having similar letters and figures on the outer edge or mould, was found about the year 1845 in digging the garden of a small cottage called Tan y ffordd at the eastern end of the village of Llandderfel. It is illustrated in *Arch. Camb.*, 1874, IV, v, 284, and the writer of the notice (the Rev. W. Wynn Williams) felt strongly

\* In a series of brief notes in *Arch. Camb.*, 1861, III, vii, 76, it is said that "one of the Lloyds of Gwern-y-Brychdyn was the last minister [of Bettws chapel], and that a field was granted to him by his father, called 'Erw Lloyd' (Lloyd's acre).". There can be little doubt that this was the close previously known as 'Erw'r capel.'

† This idea is not likely to be correct, as it is questionable whether Bettws chapels would have the right of burial, at any rate in the pre-Reformation period, unless they were very distant from the parish church.

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disposed to refer it to the period of the Roman occupation. As there is no appearance of any contrivance for its use as a matrix, the suggestion may be offered that it is nothing more than a stone stamp for stamping butter or other produce.

196. *Roman Coin.* "Within a field's length" of the place where the previously described object (No. 195) was found, a second brass coin of Diocletian was discovered (*Arch. Camb.*, 1875, IV, vi, 286).

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## DIVISION Ib (CROMLECHAU).

197. *Corsygedol Cromlech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 6''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 17''$ ).

On a field to the south of Corsygedol house is a ruined cromlech called 'Carreg Arthur' or 'Coetan Arthur.' One end rests upon the ground, and it is evident that the cromlech has been dismantled at some previous period. The capstone is 12 ft.

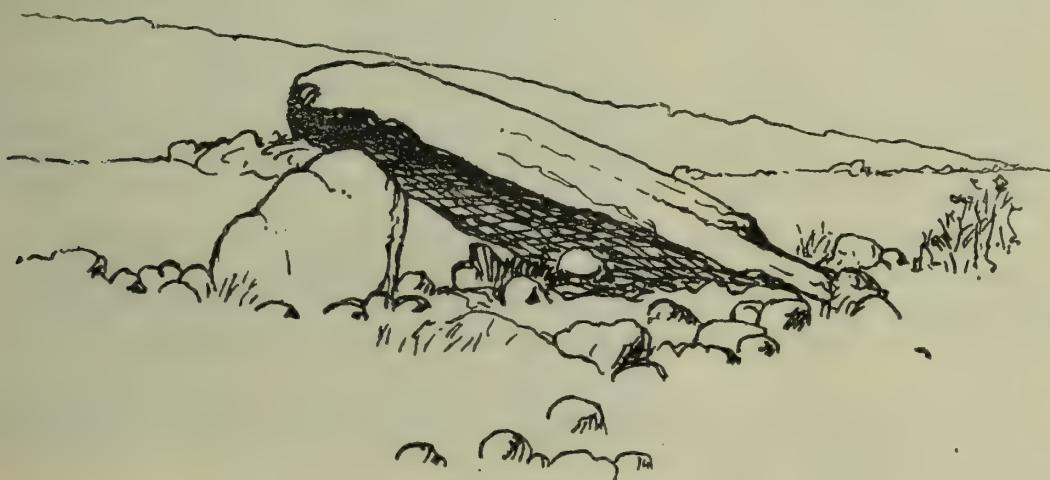


Fig. 82.

long, and its greatest breadth 8 ft. The boulders that helped to support it are scattered about, and there is such a mass of fallen stones lying around and beneath the cromlech as to suggest that it was once covered.—Visited, 18th October, 1913.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1869, III, xv, 134 (illustrated); 1920, VI, xx, 99 (with illustration and plan, and also illustration of condition in 1800).

198. *Carneddau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.).

Scattered over the dreary upland behind the house of Corsygedol are a large number of cairns and hut circles which it is impossible to describe singly, and equally impossible to form into groups. The district is covered with boulders of varying sizes which have been deposited in their present resting places by natural forces, though the industry of man has been unceasingly exerted in the direction of bringing them together in heaps or of utilising them for the construction of the dry stone walls that surround the enclosures which have been hardly won from a reluctant soil.

(i) The Ord. map marks a 'Garn' at lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 36''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 33''$ , and another 'Garn' two hundred yards north-east of the former. The first has been completely dismantled to form sheep shelters; the other has also been denuded of stones, but is in a more perfect condition and does not appear to have been entirely cleared out.

## Parish of LLANDDWYWE IS Y GRAIG.

(ii) At lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 15''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 23''$ , in a 'ffridd' belonging to Corsygedol, are several small cairns one of which is partially dismantled. Whether all of these are ancient may be questioned.

(iii) *Garnedd wen* (lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 20''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 58''$ ).

This is probably a true sepulchral cairn, and the name of the field, 'Cae Garnedd wen' in the Tithe Schedule (No. 269), favours the idea. It is nearly 5 ft. high, and about 90 ft. in circumference.

(iv) About one-quarter of a mile south of the farmstead of Ty newydd (32 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 32''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 2''$ ) are the remains of two cairns which have been almost entirely removed. Close by is a well-formed standing stone nearly 3 ft. high.

(v) A field belonging to Corsygedol is styled in the Tithe Schedule (No. 614) 'Ffridd maes carneddi' 'the enclosure of the cairns' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 6''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 6''$ ).

About the middle of the 'ffridd' are two small cairns which may be sepulchral; there are other mounds of earth and stone which almost certainly are not.

NOTE.—These apparently are cairns opened by the late Mr. W. Wynne Ffoulkes in 1851 (*Arch. Camb.*, II, iii, 101). He says "we opened several of the smaller, but without any other result than that of discovering charcoal of a close-grained wood, like oak or hazel, in greater or less quantities in them all—a fact, I think, sufficient to prove that they were heaps formed in clearing the land of stone." He adds that all the mounds had been used for wall-building material. A little later, at a meeting of the Archaeological Institute, Mr. Ffoulkes "produced some stone flakes or chips found in the cist of a Carnedd on Ffridd Eithinog, near Cors y Gedol, to the east of the road between Barmouth and Harlech [apparently the above site]. The cist was filled with very fine brown soil, with which burnt bones were mixed; and in it were deposited, but without any regularity or care, these stone flakes or chippings. They were of a hard kind of stone different from that of which the Carnedd was formed; the fractures appeared fresh, and not to have been acted upon by attrition."

(vi) Below the hill-fort of Craig y Dinas are the remains of four or five circular or oval buildings. Of two adjoining huts, one, having an interior diameter of 23 ft., has a passage way to the entrance of about 15 ft., an unusual feature. The others are probably not ancient.

(vii) On the north and north-west sides of Llyn Irddyn (32, N.E.) is an accumulated mass of widely scattered stony litter in which no certain remains of dwellings could be detected. In 1884, however, the late Rev. Hugh Pritchard believed that amongst the debris he found a hut which he has figured in *Arch. Camb.*, 1881, IV, xii, 20.

(viii) About 1,500 yards north of Llyn Irddyn and a few paces to the south of Pont Seethin (32 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 29''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 27''$ ) are the ruined walls of a circular enclosure the interior diameter of which is about 8 ft.

All the above were visited in October, 1913, or May, 1914.

(ix) At "the easternmost end of the plain not far from Craig y Dinas," (32 N.W.), Mr. W. Wynne Foulkes in September, 1851, excavated a cairn of which he gives the following account (*Arch. Camb.*, 1852, II, iii, 102):—

It measured forty-five feet in diameter; of its height we could form no very correct estimate, as the crown of it had been carried away. Sinking into it at the centre we came to a rude cist, which was covered in with a stone measuring four feet three and a half inches in length by three feet in breadth, while the cist itself, lying north-east and south-west, measured three feet one inch in length and two feet five and a half inches broad. On removing the cover-stone we found the cist to be rectangular but ill formed, made in the usual way with stones set on edge, which were so imperfectly joined at the angles that small stones had been wedged into the joints. The eastern side of it had given way and fallen outwards. To within five inches and half of the top, it was filled with very fine dark-brown soil, in which some large stones not quite covered over were embedded. Some portions of animal bones were lying on the surface; these we removed and then proceeded to clear out the cist. The soil already spoken of we found contained flakes or chippings of a hard stone of a greenish-brown colour, and burnt bones broken into small pieces, and much decomposed; the latter, as at Cwm Llwyd, chiefly abounded along the sides of the cist. The stone flakes or chippings, which were three or four inches in length, bear a faint resemblance in outline to the rudest type of flint knife; so rough, however, and unwrought, that I cannot bring myself to the conclusion that they were knives or implements of any kind, but I consider that design, not accident, placed them in the cist . . . In sinking to the cist we found one leg and other bones of some animal, which, with what I have already mentioned, formed the whole of our discoveries in this carnedd.

On 15th July, 1914, the Inspecting Officer walked over the district around Craig y Dinas, approaching it from the north as far as Pont Seethin and returning by the south, but did not succeed in finding the rifled remains of this carnedd.

## Parish of LLANDDWYWE IS Y GRAIG.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

199. *Craig y Dinas* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 13''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 23''$ ).

Towards the centre of the plateau eastward of Corsygedol rises a small eminence the summit of which has been transformed into a place of defence by the construction of a strong stone wall. The little hill stands above the small stream of the Scethin (*recte* Ysgethin), and the surrounding ground is swampy on all sides save on the north where a small rise in the level forms a sort of narrow isthmus or causeway by

which the fort can be reached. There are two and in some places three lines of communicating stone walls, the inner being still from 2 to 3 feet high, and in some places where the original wall-face is still to be traced it shows excellent construction. In those parts where its true character is perceptible the wall is found to be from 12 to 15 feet thick. Elsewhere the walls are less thick, and unquestionably have been repaired in later times. The main entrance was to the south, a little to the side of the line of advance along the isthmus referred to. Three lines of walling converge upon this entrance, but one dies away altogether, and the second becomes of less importance as they proceed round the hill eastward ; the entrance is slightly incurved. Owing to the extreme roughness and irregularity of the surface of the entire knoll the space within the innermost wall is much restricted, and



Fig. 83.

there is hardly a level patch available. At the foot of the knoll where the causeway opens out to join the fort the ground is somewhat more level, and this part is strengthened by a low wall, but it is possible that this is not an original feature. There are signs of shepherds' huts here and there in the walling. There are no remains of circular enclosures within the camp, but the district around is crowded with such constructions.—Visited, 21st October, 1913.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1885, IV, xii, 22 ; 1919, VI, p. 557.

[Illustrated, fig. 63.]

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

200. *Corsygedol* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 12''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 35''$ ).

This is the finest of the old mansions of the county of Merioneth. It dates from the latter part of the reign of Elizabeth and is of the regular plan of the period, being built around a large quadrangle surrounded by walls on three sides, with a gateway house in the centre of the wall fronting the entrance. The mansion occupied the fourth side of the quadrangle. The central part of this front was built by Griffith Vaughan in 1576, and extended both eastwards and westwards in 1592 and 1593. The porch was also added in the latter year. The present gate house was built in 1630, but it was always contemplated and may have taken the place of a poorer or

## Parish of LLANDDWYWE IS Y GRAIG.

temporary expedient.\* The entrance opens upon a good hall, having panelled walls and moulded beams, and a particularly fine fireplace bearing the date 1572, the arms of Griffith Vaughan, and the motto *Sequere justiciam et Invenias Vitam*. Considerable changes have been made at various times in the way of adapting the house to the advancing ideas of convenience and luxury, but structurally it is much as it was in the year 1600. The rooms on the first floor have been for the most part modernised, and what was doubtless the principal bedroom bears the date 1792.

Corsygedol farmhouse was rebuilt in 1739, but the barn is of the year 1685. — Visited, 18th October, 1913.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1875, IV, vi, 1.

[Illustrated figs. 8, 9.]

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

201. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.). Ded: St. Dwywe.

Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

The church is a simple parallelogram, 51 feet long by  $23\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide externally, having the Vaughan (Corsygedol) chapel at the east end of the north side, south porch, north and south doors, and western bell-cote. The nave and chancel are separated by late 18th century rails. The roof of the entire building is plain but good Perpendicular work; that over the chancel is somewhat richer, one of its two trusses being foliated and there is a billeted cornice above the wall plate. The east window is good Perpendicular of three lights. The west window is a tall lancet; the other windows are later. The porch is dated 1593, and this is doubtless the year in which the entire edifice was re-constructed. It is therefore an interesting example of Perpendicular work unaffected by the architectural developments of the 16th century. The south wall of the chancel was rebuilt in 1663, as appears by a dated stone outside. The font is octagonal and probably of the same date as the church. The modern vestry at the west end of the nave has two beams carved with flowing foliage and pomegranates, perhaps vestiges of the cornice of the screen.

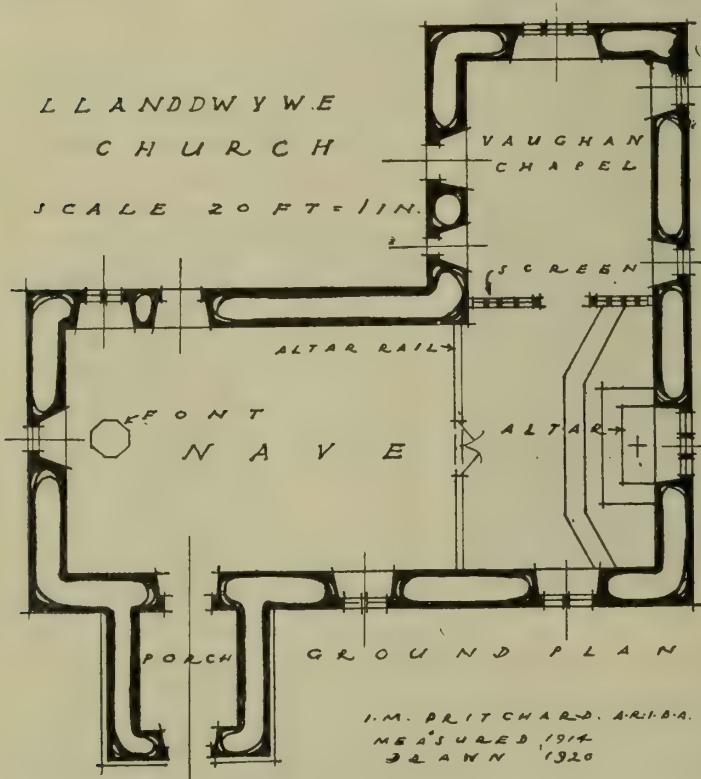


Fig. 84.

The Corsygedol chapel† is 23 feet by 22 feet, the east wall being in line with the east wall of the church. The date 1615 appears internally and externally. It communicates with the chancel by an open screen dated 1620. It has two round-headed windows at the east end, and a three-light window of the same character in the north wall. The chapel had a separate entrance on the west side by a round-headed doorway. It is crowded with monuments to various members of the family of Vaughan of Corsygedol.

The churchyard was until recently nearly circular, the extension being clearly marked by a portion of the old wall which has been allowed to remain.‡

[Illustrated fig. 15.]

\* The statement that it was designed by Inigo Jones rests upon a fair basis of probability. William Vaughan (died 1669), the son of Griffith Vaughan (died 1616), had considerable acquaintance with the men of letters and ability of the period. He was a friend of Ben Jonson, and there is a letter of his in James Howell's *Epistolae* (see *Arch. Camb.*, supra, p. 12).

† The more interesting inscriptions in the Corsygedol chapel have been printed in *Bygones*, 1901-2, p. 433.

‡ In the churchyard lies the body of the Rev. John Williams (ab Ithel).

## Parish of LLANDDWYWE IS Y GRAIG.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—BRIDGES).

202. *Pont Fadog* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 57''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 55''$ ).

On one of the stone parapets of this bridge is the legend—W. V. 1762. H. Ed. saer—which being interpreted means that Mr. William Vaughan of Corsygedol was at the cost of making the bridge, or at any rate the parapets, in the year 1762, employing H. Edward as mason. The width of the road between the parapets is 11 feet 3 inches. The single arch below is a segment of a nearly perfect circle, and may be older.—Visited, 24th October, 1913.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC AND ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

203. *Caer* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 31 S.E. and 32 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 9''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 40''$ ).

This is the name given in the Tithe Schedule (No. 321) to a flat, low-lying roughly-circular field, surrounded by an old wall which has been repaired in divers places. The tenant of one of the two farm houses called “Hafod,” which it adjoins, did not know it by the above name.—Visited, 15th October, 1913.

204. *Cae'r Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 31 S.E. and 32 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 43''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 15''$ ).

There is no sign of a cairn in this field, though the name Cae'r garnedd is given to it in the Tithe Schedule (No. 351). If a cairn ever existed here it has been used to make the “carleg” or thick wall on the east side of the field.—Visited, 15th October, 1913.

205. *Sarn faen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 20''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 57''$ ).

A farm house so named in the Tithe Schedule (No. 268) standing on an ancient lane, but possessing no other antiquarian interest.—Visited, 15th October, 1913.

206. *Erw groes fawr and fach* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 18''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 55''$ ).

This is the name applied in the Tithe Schedule (Nos. 273-4) to two adjoining fields of the farm of Tyddyn Gronw that abut on the south side of the same old roadway as last spoken of. The tenant had never heard the name as given to the fields.—Visited, 15th October, 1913.

## Parish of LLANDDWYWE UWCH Y GRAIG.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

207. *Inscribed Stone* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 27 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 9''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 46''$ ).

On the face of a rock at Ganllwyd, the mountainous district on the Dolgelly-Trawsfynydd road, and directly fronting the Rhiadr du is cut an inscription which, owing to its indistinctness, has been a puzzle to antiquaries. It has, however, been shown by Mr. Egerton Phillimore in *Bygones* for 22nd October, 1919 (copied into *Arch. Camb.*, October, 1919, p. 526) to be several lines from Gray's Latin poem to the Deity of the Grand Chartreuse.

The inscription was probably cut about the commencement of the 19th century.

**Parish of LLANDDWYWE UWCH Y GRAIG.****DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).**

208. *Buarth garnedd fawr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 27 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 2''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 44''$ ).

This is the name of a field as given in the Tithe Schedule (No. 884), but it is unknown to the farmer of Maesgwm who occupies it ; nor could anything be learned of the whereabouts of a cairn in the immediate neighbourhood.—Visited, 14th September, 1914.

209. *Rhos y ddau faen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 27 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 10''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 56' 16''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 690. An enclosure close to the junction of the tiny streams Afon Gau and Afon Crawewellt. No stones were noticed standing out with more than ordinary prominence.

**Parish of LLANDECWYN.****DIVISION Ia (TUMULI).**

209A. *Bedd Dorti* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.E.).

On the road from Llandecwyn to Maentwrog is a mound known as Bedd Dorti, which may be a popular distortion of Bedd Dorothi. The mound is covered with white stones, and the local tradition is that unless the passer-by adds a white stone to the heap he will die within a year. It probably commemorates a tragic occurrence of comparatively recent times, but no information could be obtained concerning it.

**DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).**

210. *Carneddau.*

The physical characteristics of this parish are similar to those of Llanddwywe y graig, and it is extremely difficult to arrange the large number of cairns which it contains into any clearly defined groups so as to obtain a comprehensive view of them, while it is altogether impossible to devise a method of description that will include them all.

The principal group of early structures, cairns as well as hut circles, is found upon a bare moorland called Cors dwyfil. Not one of the cairns bears a distinctive name, apart from the name of the farm or 'ffridd' upon which it stands, nor is the group the subject of any traditions oral or documentary.

(i) On sheet 19 N.E., at lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 52''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 37''$ , at a part of the moorland called Bryn cader faner, is a rifled stone mound, which still has a few traces of its burial chamber. This chamber seems to have measured about 8 feet by 5 feet. One of the end stones, which stands 2 feet high and is brought to a point at the top like the gable of a house, occupies its original site. Of the side stones one is 5 feet, the other 4 feet 6 inches long ; both have been disturbed. The mound is about 28 feet in diameter, and between 5 and 6 feet high at the centre ; on the circumference is a number of upright slabs having an average height of 3 feet, and with an interval of 2 feet 6 inches between each, which rings the cairn around. This circle of stones is in perfect preservation.

(ii) About 200 yards south-west of the former (lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 50''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 40''$ ), and about 10 yards south of the trackway leading northward to Bryn cader faner, is a stone barrow which has been opened. Near the edge, just inside the rise of the cairn, and on the north-west side, are two small upright stones, and another about 18 inches high is partly prostrate on the west.

(iii) About 20 yards to the west of No. (ii) are two cairns in such a condition of ruin that measurements of them are impossible.

(iv) About 20 yards westward of No. (iii), and to the north of the mountain path, are two ruined cairns. The small size of the cairns (iii) and (iv) make it probable that they are mere surface clearances, and are not true antiquities.

## Parish of LLANDECWYN.

(v) On the north side of an old track leading towards Llyn Eiddew bach, the Ordnance sheet marks an antiquity as "Carn" at lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 30''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 5''$ . It appears, however, to be rather of the nature of a small enclosure, having a circular bank of earth 7 to 8 feet thick and 4 feet high where best preserved, with a now ruined stone wall imposed thereupon. The diameter is about 35 feet, but the southern part of the circle has been almost entirely removed. There is an entrance on the east which has been widened, and on each side of the interior of this entrance is a hollow which betokens a pit made by the excavation for the earthen bank or marks the presence of a small hut.

(vi) About 40 yards to the west is a group of at least three cairns which have been practically demolished, and two upright boulders which may always have stood alone or are the sole remains of cairns which have disappeared.

(vii) At lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 55''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 21''$ , is a circle of buried stones, doubtless the foundations of a cairn that has otherwise been entirely cleared away. The diameter of the circle is 27 feet.

(viii) About 300 yards north-east of the previous site is a cairn about 5 feet in height, and having a huge boulder on its western edge; it has the appearance of being a true carnedd, and shows no sign of disturbance.

(ix) Near the last-mentioned cairn is what the Ordnance sheet describes as "Stone Circles, remains of." The remains are not those of a circle, but of a carnedd which has been rifled and the enclosed cist exposed. The length of the cist is 4 feet by 1 foot 9 inches broad; it has been wholly cleared out, and dug into beyond its original depth. The cairn is 24 feet in diameter, and near the exterior margin is a discontinuous ring of boulders averaging 2 feet in height.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS) SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

211. *Caer Coed garthbyr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 25''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 40''$ ).

On the summit of the long wooded ridge called Coed garthbyr is a narrow promontory which appears to have been made into a defensive position by the construction of a low bank of earth and stones except at the points where the natural obstacles are sufficiently great to necessitate no artificial aid. The interior diameter is about 87 feet. The whole is covered with a thick growth of trees and brambles.—Visited, 19th August, 1914.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION XX (CIRCULAR HUTS, ETC.)

212. Often accompanying the cairns, or in such close contiguity to them as to suggest a connexion between the homes of the dead and of the living, are the more or less ruined remains of circular enclosures, the walls usually formed of earth and small stones standing to an average height of 2 feet. These huts are popularly known by the name of 'Cyttiau Gwyddelod,' a term which is usually translated 'Irishmen's Huts' and explained to have reference to the dwellings of the earlier branch of the Celtic family now represented in part by the Irish, or of a body of invaders from Ireland. It should be borne in mind, however, that the term 'Gwyddel' would equally denote 'a man of the woods,' 'a backwoodsman,' from *gwydd*, wood. If used as dwellings, the huts must have been covered, and it has been suggested that the roofing may have been of the primitive character of many of the dwellings in the south-western districts of Ireland. They are found singly as well as in groups of three or four, without any protective walls; others are collected within a circumambient wall, after the manner of the Dartmoor examples.

A number exist in this parish, of which the following are the principal groups, and there are doubtless many single examples which are now too obscured to obtain ready notice.

(i) West of the mountain called Y Gyrn, a little north of the farmstead of Maes y caerau, and at lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 19''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 48''$  (sheet 19 N.E.), in a ffridd or enclosure called Cae Niog ucha, is an earthwork of unusual form. First comes a perfect circle of 132 feet diameter; next, at a varying distance of between 25 and 35 feet, comes an

## Parish of LLANDECWYN.

inner and not quite perfect circle having a diameter of 76 feet in one direction and 88 feet in another ; finally there is within this inner enclosure a third enclosure, the wall of which is carried round for about two-thirds of a circle. The outermost wall is very carefully built of long stones to a breadth of about 3 feet. The walling of the inner circle is not equal to that of the outer, and is now very dilapidated. The innermost segment of walling has suffered most, and its details are not easily to be made out without a clearance of the debris. The outer circle has an entrance facing the south-west, and it was connected by a walled passage-way with a corresponding entrance into the inner circle ; this walling is, however, in too ruinous a condition to be more exactly described. There is also a gap about 10 feet wide, a possible entrance, in the outer wall at the south-east, but it has no corresponding break in the inner wall. Against the innermost wall are the ruins of at least three hut dwellings, too ruinous for further description. This extraordinary earthwork does not appear to be known by any distinctive name, nor to have hitherto attracted the notice of antiquaries. It should be carefully cleared out and examined. Visited 17th August, 1914.

(ii) On the farm of Esgair olwyn, at lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 28''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 4''$  (sheet 19 N.W.), is a cluster of hut dwellings. The enclosures vary in size from about 30 to 50 feet diameter. One is rectangular, but appears in no way to differ in construction from those which are round. There are ruins as of interior walls or small hut dwellings within one of the circles. All are much ruined, as well as buried beneath rank vegetable growth.

(iii) In a meadow called 'Porfa' belonging to the farm of Yr onen, is a nearly circular enclosure of slightly over 100 feet diameter (lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 43''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 40''$ ). If this is an antiquity at all, it is possible that it should be regarded as a hill fort rather than as a protective enclosure to a number of hut dwellings, of which there are no indications, while its size precludes it being itself the ruins of a circular hut dwelling. There are signs of later building on the west side of the circle.

(iv) About 200 yards to the north-west, on the same farm, in a meadow called 'Cefnen,' is a similar enclosure. There is no hut dwelling within the circle, but what appear to be the ruins of several huts in this and the adjoining field to the north were noticed.

(v) Another large circular enclosure is placed at lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 6''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 2''$ , about 200 yards south-west of the farmhouse called 'Maes y caerau,' though actually on the land of 'Coetty mawr,' and in a field called 'Hendre boeth Bach.' Its diameter is about 90 feet.

(vi) A group of much ruined circles measuring about 30 feet across are on the land of Moel y glo (lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 20''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 35''$ ).

(vii) On the open mountain called Cors dwyfil, at lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 14''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 0''$ , are two contiguous circles, one in better condition than usual, the other a hopeless ruin. The entrance to the first is at S.E., to the second, so far as it could be determined, at N.W.

(viii) A little to the north-east of the last described is a closely connected group of at least five round hut dwellings, all greatly dilapidated.

(ix) A small circle of about 25 feet diameter stands on the farm of Coetty mawr at lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 14''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 8''$ . In the same field are many heaps of fairly large boulders, gathered during the clearing of the ground, relics perhaps of other hut dwelling. All the above were visited on various dates in August, 1914.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

213. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.E.). Ded : St. Tecwyn. Diocese of Bangor ; archdeaconry of Merioneth ; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

This church was almost entirely rebuilt on its former site in the year 1879, when practically every object of antiquity was swept away, with the possible exception of a small stone basin, and the recess (2 feet 7 inches high and 12 inches deep) in which it stands, on the south side of the altar table ; these were probably features of the former church. The churchyard is circular except on the south, where is the lych-gate, a flat-roofed structure with seats on either side of the interior. The Inspecting

## Parish of LLANDECWYN.

Officer heard of a Maen Tecwyn, the exact site of which could not be ascertained. It was blown up some years ago, and its fragments used in building a barn. Attached to the churchyard is a modernized house called Ty'n Nan, which bears the date 1672.— Visited, 15th August, 1914.

*Inscribed Stone.*—At the time of the restoration of the church in 1879 a stone upon which is an inscription was found some 10 or 12 feet from the east end, outside the altar rails, and at a height from the floor of about 3 feet 6 inches. The

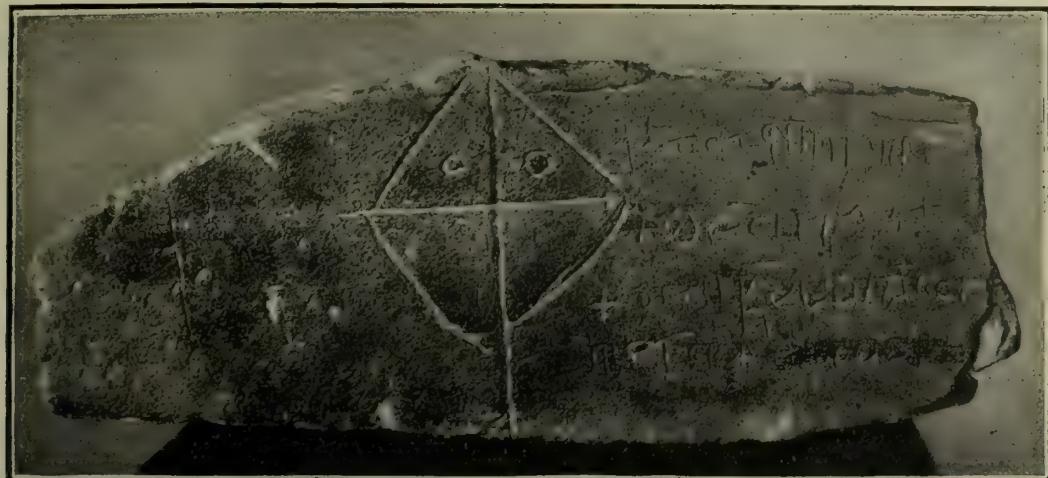


Fig. 85.

stone is 14 inches long, breadth decreasing from 4 inches at one end to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the other, and 2 inches thick. On the smoothed upper surface is a four-line inscription, which has been interpreted by the late Professor Sir Edward Anwyl to read 'Scti Tetquini Pr[esbyteri] h[oc]ri Dei claris[imi] q[ue] Dei s[e]roi Heli diaconi me fecit + a. b. c. d. e. f. +,' and to mean [the Cross of] St. Tecwyn, presbyter, to the honour of God and the most illustrious servant of God, Heli, deacon, made me. In regard to which reading it may suffice to say that it should not go unchallenged. The last word is almost certainly the French *merci*, and this at once links the inscription with the numerous examples where the Almighty is invoked to have mercy on the soul of the person perpetuated. The name of Tecwyn is indubitable. The

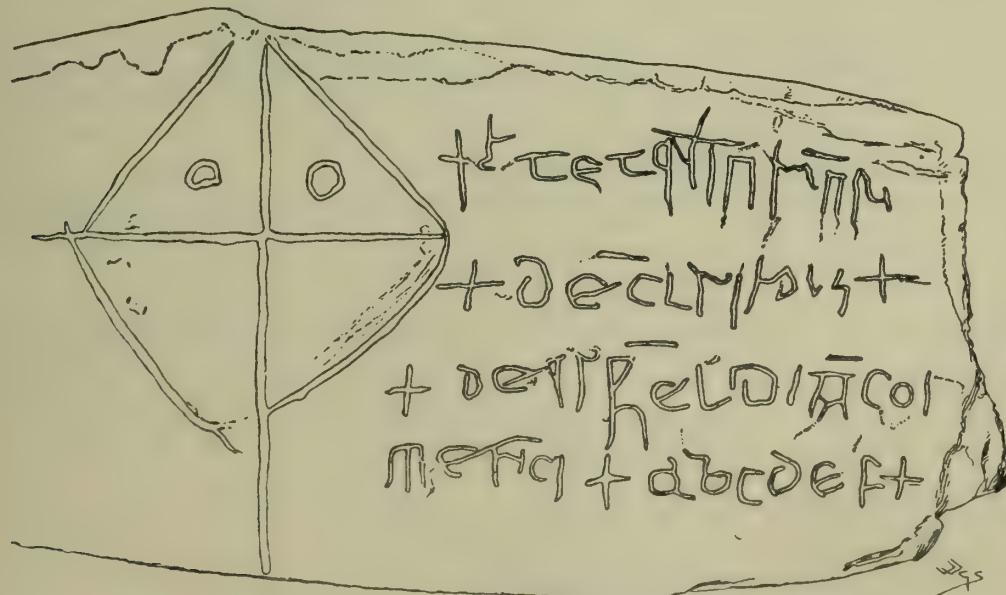


Fig. 88.

writer of this notice suggests Tetquin s[anct]us, and it may be questioned whether the name Heli is contained in the inscription. The date seems to be the eleventh century. The stone is now at the vicarage of Llanfihangel y Traethau.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1905, VI, v, 237, and *ib.*, vi, 121.

## Parish of LLANDECWYN.

## SECTION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

214. *Ffynnon Decwyn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 59''$ , long  $4^{\circ} 2' 6''$ ).

The antiquary Edward Lhuyd, or a correspondent of his, writing about the year 1698, has the note “Fynnon Deckwyn by plas Ll. Deckwyn not far from ye church” (*Parochialia*, ii, 106). Near Plas Llandecwyn is a spring which flows into a cavity about 3 feet at the front and 2 feet at the back by a breadth of 21 inches; the water stands in its rock cistern to the depth of 14 inches, and as there is a slight but steady overflow the water is kept sweet. There can be little doubt that this is the well noted by Lhuyd, but the name of Tecwyn is now not connected with it. The Inspecting Officer’s attention was directed to a spot about 330 yards north-east of the church where is a hole about 21 inches square cut into the rock at the level of the road, water dripping within and overflowing the road.—Visited, 15th August, 1914.

## SECTION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

215. *Old Trackway* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.W. and N.E., and 11 S.E.).

An unquestionably ancient trackway, now for the most part an ordinary country road enters this parish from Talsarnau at lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 28''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 25''$ , and pursuing a north-east-by-north course past Maes y neuadd and Dolorgan fawr and crossing Pont Dolorgan, traverses the rough upland country called Bryn bwbach. It turns eastward at Glan llyn and then (at 19 N.E., at  $52^{\circ} 54' 49''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 15''$ ) northward, and next by a north-easterly course makes directly for Llandecwyn church. Thence it continues to Pont felinrhyd, across which it passes into the parish of Festiniog. So far as could be ascertained by enquiries at points along its route it bears no distinctive name, nor do place-names afford any assistance.—Traversed, 15th August, 1914.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

216. *Muriau'r Gwyddyl* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 58''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 47''$ ).

This is a house whose sole interest to the antiquary arises from its name—the Irishmen’s or wood-men’s walls. No remains of circular huts or enclosures were found on the farm, and it was said that none were known to exist upon it. But at the spot indicated above, on the small holding called Gwerglodd y ty, a little to the south-east of Muriau'r Gwyddyl, and on a sharp slope, is a short length of curved walling as though it might be a broken circle; it is, however, too ruined to permit of further description.—Visited, 22nd August, 1914.

NOTE.—The house of Muriau'r Gwyddyl is probably of the mid-18th century, but the Inspecting Officer was informed that the former house of the same name is represented by some farm buildings, which did not appear to be more than perhaps a century earlier.

217. *Cae maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 36''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 35''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 269. There is no appearance of a maen or ‘stone’ on this field, which is part of the farm of Caerwych. Perhaps the name should be ‘cae main,’ ‘the narrow field.’—Visited, 17th August, 1914.

218. *Cae cerrig hirion*, ‘the field of the long stones.’

*Cae cerrig ucha*, ‘the field of the upper stones.’

(6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 32''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 10''$  and  $11''$ ).

Two adjoining fields on the farm of Moel y geifr, with no present trace of long stones, or any other objects of antiquity. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 652–3.

Another *Cae'r garreg* belonging to the farm of Bryn melyn (Tithe Schedule, No. 566), is at lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 0''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 20''$ , but contains no signs of an antiquity.

## Parish of LLANDECWYN.

219. *Caer wych*, 'the pleasant caer' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 44''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 39''$ ).

The name has probably no archaeological significance.

220. *Moel y ddinas* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Me. 19 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 3''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 44''$ ).

A natural eminence.

## Parish of LLANDRILLO.

## DIVISION Ia (TUMULI).

221. *Bedd Trillo* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 29''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 4''$ ).

The antiquary Edward Lhuyd has the following note written about the year 1698—"Bedh y Santes ar lan Kadwst lhe kladwyd Santes (uxorem intelligit) Trillo," (*Parochialia*, ii, 58); that is: "The grave of the Saint on the banks of Kadwst, where is buried Saint (that is, the wife of) Trillo."

On the south bank of the Cadwst brook, contiguous to a ford called 'Rhedy bedd,' 'the ford of the grave,' and in a field now known as 'Ffridd y nant,' is a low mound which may be the remains of a much-disturbed tumulus. The mound is about 2 feet high and 8 feet in diameter. It has been cut through across the centre from north to south, and the western half almost entirely cleared away; a few moderately large stones are lying about on its eastern side. Careful investigations would probably disclose interesting details that have lain undisturbed or been missed by previous excavators.—Visited, 14th June, 1913.

## DIVISION Ib (CROMLECHAU).

222. *Carnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 41''$  and  $42''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 28''$  and  $23''$ ).

Close to the enclosure called Craig yr Arian (No. 245) are two cairns the stones of which lie scattered around.—Visited, 23rd July, 1913.

223. *Branas Cromlech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 35''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 28' 12''$ ).

A somewhat conspicuous knoll in the middle of a meadow nearly north of Branas ucha is the site of a ruined cromlech. On the summit of the knoll are two upright stones, one 5 feet in height, and near them is a large prostrate block. The surface around is strewn with stone debris.—Visited, 18th June, 1913.

## DIVISION Ic (STANDING STONES).

224. *Maen Egryn* (6 in Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 13''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 28' 59''$ ).

This is the name given to what may have been the capstone of a destroyed cromlech, which stands on a tract of wild mountain land a few yards within the boundary line dividing this parish from that of Llandderfel. The stone is 7 feet long, by 5 feet 9 inches maximum thickness. The ground around is rocky, and it is just possible that the monument is of natural origin and the arrangement of scattered stones fortuitous. The moor north-west of Maen Egryn is named 'Mawnog Egryn,' 'Egryn turbary.'—Visited, 22nd July, 1913.

## Parish of LLANDRILLO.

## DIVISION Ie (STONE CIRCLES).

225. *Moel ty ucha Circle* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 24''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 15''$ ).

This fine and almost perfect circle is situated on a hillock on that part of the slopes of the Berwyn range called Moel ty ucha, 180 yards north of the course of Sarn Elen, or Sarn felyn, 'the yellow sarn,' as it is locally termed. The diameter of the circle is 39 feet, and there are 41 stones in the circumference which is almost complete, the principal gap being one of 10 feet facing south. The average height of the stones is about 18 inches, the tallest being 30 inches. There is an oval-shaped boulder in the centre of the circle, and another of smaller dimensions near the circumference on the north-east.—Visited, 12th June, 1913.

The circle was visited at a later date by Lieut.-Col. Morgan, a Commissioner, who reported upon it as follows:—

This circle is situated on a small spur on the southern side of the summit of Tyn y foel mountain. The ground slopes from the circle on all sides except along a

narrow neck. Many of the stones are of good size, the largest being a square block 4 feet wide and 3 feet high; some of them, however, are only visible by removing the heather. They form a very continuous ring, and the circle, especially as there are remains of a centre cist, must be classed as a "cairn circle"—for which reason (according to my experience) it is hopeless to look for any

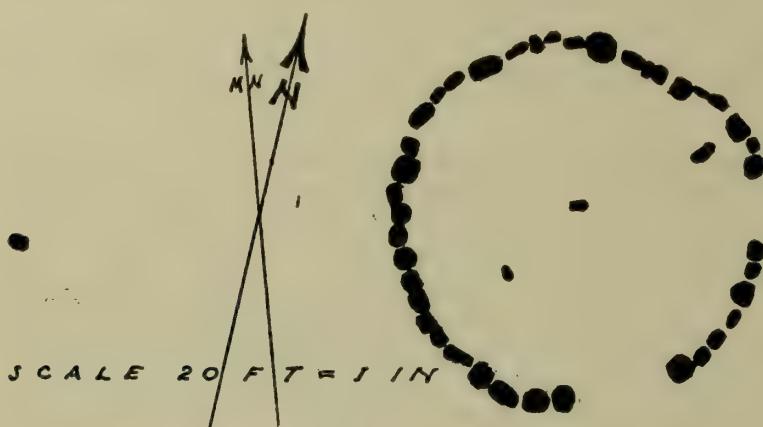


Fig. 89.

signs of orientation; there were, however, two prominent stones to which observations were taken: one, in the N.E. quadrant is near the north; the other, in the S.W. quadrant, a very prominent stone but of no practical value.

There are evident remains of an excavated cist in the centre of the circle; one of the cist stones is still to be seen to the north.

226. *Tyfos Circle* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 14''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 44''$ ).

This circle is placed on slightly rising ground in a meadow south-east of Tyfos farmstead, about 500 yards north-west of the circle previously described. The stones stand upon a bank which rises from 3 to 4 feet. On the west side the interior is much encumbered with rubbish so that the bank in that direction, though quite apparent, is practically level with the enclosure. The diameter of the circle varies at different points from 62 to 66 feet. The stones number 14, with perhaps one additional very small stone which lies directly on the periphery. A good many gaps occur in the circle, and some of the boulders look as though they were slowly disappearing, but from south to west there does not seem to be any missing. Three large boulders are in the hedge south of the circle, and one is in the hedge east of it, which may possibly have once belonged to it. Two fields immediately to the north of the farmhouse named Cae garreg ucha and issa (Tithe Schedule, Nos. 1067 and 1068) were doubtless so called from their proximity to the circle, in the centre of which may have stood a maenhir.—Visited, 12th June, 1913.

227. *Rhuol Circles* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 42''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 36''$ ).

In the immediate vicinity of the hamlet of Rhuol are the remains of what appear to have been at least two circles which, it was stated, were destroyed within recent years.

In the next field, a meadow called 'the lock meadow,' is a bank 33 feet in diameter in which are embedded a number of small boulders.—Visited, 17th June, 1913.

## Parish of LLANDRILLO.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (CASTLE MOUNTS WITH ENCLOSURES).

228. *Hendwr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 59''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 25' 29''$ ).

This relic of antiquity, though marked on the Ordnance sheet as a "camp," is evidently the lower portion of a mound that has supported a wooden castalet. The upper portion has been removed, and what remains of the earthen structure now stands from 6 to 9 feet in height. The shape of the flat top is oval, measuring 156 feet in one direction by 100 feet in another, but this unusual form probably results from the distribution of the removed earth. There is no appearance of a ditch, and it is of course impossible without excavation to say whether a moat ever existed. A low bank extends for a few yards at the northern end.—Visited, 12th June, 1913.

NOTE.—This is one of the most interesting historical sites in the county. There can be no doubt that it is the position thus referred to by Leland: "In this commote ys the ruine of Towre Kenwyn [i.e. Cynfyn] now cauld Yrhendwr." Edward Lhuyd mentions it as Pen y Twr. Hendwr was the seat of one of the barons of Edeirnion, and was probably first constructed as a motte castle by a chieftain named Cynfyn, otherwise unknown. Careful excavations should be made on the site.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

229. *Plas yn y Faerdre* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 16''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 25' 19''$ ).

This is a large house the greater part of which has been rebuilt, but the old kitchen at the back standing at right angles to the newer portion and containing a low window with four mullions is of about the year 1600.—Visited, 12th June, 1913.

NOTE.—The name and associations of this house connects it with the period of the Welsh princes. The township wherein it stands was the "maerdref" of the commote of Edeirnion. Appurtenant to the farm is Rhos y maerdy, the mountain pasture of the Welsh maer, where is a ruined building once containing dwelling-house and beast-house, etc., under one roof, and with extensive out-buildings. It is indeed possible that this is the original residence of the maer, and the Plas a later construction. Furthermore, there is a "Dol y Faerdre," a large piece of low-lying pasture land (*dol*), which was formerly divided into the *erwau* or quillets of the Welsh land system. Seventeen of the meirstones, large slate slabs, still occupy their original position, marking the boundaries of the quillets, and other meirstones have been brought together in three different positions by consolidating the quillets which they indicated.

230. *Blaen y Cwm* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 52''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 14''$ ).

A large and well-built house in Cwm Pennant, about one mile south-west of the hamlet of Rhuol, having over the front door a stone inscribed I M LL 1728, probably John Lloyd, who married Mary, daughter of Gabriel Jones of Cilan.—Visited, 17th June, 1913.

*Inscribed Stone.* (i) A stone, one face of which has been smoothed for the purpose of bearing an inscription, is built into one of the corners of the garden in front of the farmstead of Blaen y cwm. The inscribed surface is kept within a rectangular space of 19 inches by 12, straight lines having been drawn at those distances, and five horizontal lines within the space from side to side. The inscription follows these five lines, but the characters for the most part do not rest on the lines but are slightly above them.

The only notice the stone has received is a short article by the Rev. C. H. Drinkwater in *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 300, with an illustration. Mr. Drinkwater thought that the inscription was part Welsh and part Latin, and believed that he deciphered IN NOMINE in the fifth line, and the date MCCCIII (1303) in the sixth line. The characters were "faint and worn" thirty years ago, and have become more indistinct in the interval. A correct rendering still remains to be found: the words IN NOMINE may be accepted, but not the date. The stone should be removed from its present exposed position.—Visited, 17th June, 1913.

[Illustrated, fig. 147.]

(?) *Inscribed Stone* (ii). About 500 yards to the east of Blaen y cwm farmhouse and the inscribed stone last noticed, and on the margin of a small stream called Nant cwm pydew (lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 47''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 41''$ ) is a large prostrate boulder upon whose upturned side are certain marks which it is difficult to accept as lettering, and equally difficult altogether to reject. A print of it is given on which will be seen indications of the local efforts that have been made to discover treasure beneath the stone.—Visited, 5th October, 1920.

[Illustrated, fig. 111.]

## Parish of LLANDRILLO.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

231. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E.). Ded: St. Trillo. Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural deanery of Penllyn; townships of Cilan, Dinharn, Garthiaen, Llan, Maerdref, Pennant, Sirior.

This church was entirely rebuilt in 1877, and nothing of the old structure or fittings appears to have survived except a few mural monuments. The older font is kept in the rectory garden; a plain octagonal bowl, a short retreating pillar, and a square base with chamfered corners; total height 2 ft. 8 in.; internal diameter of bowl 1 ft. 7 in.; it probably belongs to the 15th century. The churchyard is nearly circular, and contains on the south side a very ancient yew tree. The oldest decipherable tombstone is dated 1684.—Visited, 12th June, 1913.

Glynne, 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 271; Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph* (ed. 1912), 100.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

232. *Ffordd Gam Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 24 N.W., 23 N.E., 15 S.E., N.E.).

The old trackway over the Berwyn mountains is now frequently called 'Sarn felyn,' 'the yellow causeway,' or 'Sarn felin,' 'the mill causeway,' both corruptions of the tradition which associates these early trackways with the Roman empress Helena. It enters this parish from that of Llanrhaiadr ym Mochnant, co. Denbigh (24 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 45''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 22' 25''$ ) at a slight depression in the mountain called Bwlch Maen Gwynedd (see *Inventory of Monuments of co. Denbigh*, No. 261). While on high ground its course winds in and out, doubtless keeping to the drier parts of the ground, and until it reaches cultivated land it is, as Edward Lhuyd terms it, "ffordd las lydan heb rug na chrowkwelt"—"a wide green track without heather or bent grass," its average and probably original width being about 8 ft. Where it follows the lower ground it serves as a cartway for the farms of Ty'n y parc, Melin y glyn and Bryn Llywarch, its general direction being north with a trend to west. In the cultivated ground of the Dee valley it is barely traceable, nor is there any indication of the exact point at which it crossed the river, but on the northern bank it reappears as a much worn track inside the western hedge of the meadow fronting Tyfos issa. Further on it is easily traced as a green way with a high and rather steep south bank. It continues to deviate slightly from a straight course, but to the point where it enters the parish of Llandderfel (sheet 15 N.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 17''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 45''$ ; see No. 181 ante) it keeps steadily to a north-westerly direction. Many of the early monuments already described lie along or near its course. It is certainly not a Roman way.—Traversed, June 1913.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

233. *Ffynnon Trillo* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 34''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 20''$ ).

This spring, which is situated about 500 yards north of the parish, is now dry except in winter or very wet weather. No local traditions relating to it exist, and it does not appear to have possessed healing properties or been used for divination.—Visited, 12th July, 1913.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

234. *Cae Garreg* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 8''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 0''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 1159.

236. *Cae'r Garreg* (lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 56''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 25' 43''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 13.

237. *Cae Garreg* (23 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 2''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 46''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 192.

238. *Tir maen llwyd* (15 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 48''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 25' 30''$ ). Tithe Schedule, No. 1190.

These are all place-names taken from the Tithe Schedule of the parish where the name may possess an archaeological significance and the sites conceal hidden

## Parish of LLANDRILLO.

remains. There are stones in each of the fields which might have given it its special name, but it is impossible to be sure even of this, for in most instances the fields are not known by these names to the present occupiers. All the sites were visited in the month of June, 1913.

239. *Camp* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 49''$ ).

This is a natural plateau, and has nothing artificial upon it, though marked in the Ord. sheet is "Camp, site of."—Visited, 12th June, 1913.

240. *Erw'r Gaer* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 36''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 10''$ ).

There is now no caer. Tithe Schedule, No. 1267.—Visited, 16th June, 1913.

241. *Cae'r Groes* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 24''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 25' 50''$ ).

There is no structural cross here, nor tradition of one. The meadow forms a triangle of which the western apex is occupied by a house, Ty'n y Groes, and the open road in front of it is called Y Groes. The field contains two quillets.—Visited, 12th June, 1913.

242. *Ffridd yr Eglwys* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 25''$ ).

A ffridd or enclosure close to the hamlet of Rhual, which has doubtless been sub-divided, but which was originally open; some survivals of foundations are thought locally to be the site of a church or early chapel. The adjoining enclosure to the west is called Ffridd yr Eglwys, and here are remains of buildings, but nothing definite can be said of the position without careful investigation.—Visited, 17th June, 1913.

243. *Friends' Burial Ground* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 21''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 33''$ ).

In the garden belonging to Tyfos issa lying to the south of the farm-house is a small area said to be used as a burial ground by the Society of Friends. The presence of two yew trees in the garden may have given rise to the tradition, but the fact is by no means improbable. It is not known that any members of the Society of Friends were occupiers of Tyfos issa.—Visited, 12th June, 1913.

244. *Plas yn Dinam* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 43''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 57''$ ).

This is the name of a small residence, and also of the township within which the residence stands. It is noticed to call attention to the name 'Dinam,' which, in that form is common enough throughout Wales. Mr. Edward Lhuyd spells the present example 'Dinan.' Less than a quarter of a mile south is the farm called 'Maen Dinam,' and about 350 yards from the last named place, is a cottage called 'Llystyn.' All these names contain the word 'din,' a fort; but no fort is discoverable in the district. Near the spot is a stream now called Afon y Dinam, but Lhuyd, who mentions all the river names, either does not mention this or gives it another name.—Visited, 23rd July, 1913.

NOTE.—In the Public Record Office (*Chancery Proceedings, Series II, Bundle 55, No. 25*) are the records of a suit relating to certain lands in the town[ship] and fields of Garthiaen and Dinan in the commote of Edernyon.

245. *Craig yr arian* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 42''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 27' 40''$ ).

On the open mountain above Plas yn Dinam, and about 600 yards west of it, is a rectangular enclosure 34 ft. by 40 ft. The walls are formed of earth and stone and stand about 3 ft. high, but they are practically buried beneath the rubbish that has accumulated about them. An entrance 3 ft. 10 in. wide is in the middle of the

## Parish of LLANDRILLO.

south wall. It is difficult to imagine that the structure was built for a sheep-fold in view of the fact that much of the interior is occupied by rock. The name, too, requires explanation.—Visited, 20th July, 1913.

## Parish of LLANEGRYN.

## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

246. *Goleuvern carnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 41' 4''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 22''$ ).

Immediately south of the mountain road from Gwastadgoed, and about 500 yards south of the Goleuvern quarries, is a cairn which was excavated by Mr. W. Wynne Ffoulkes in the year 1849. The stones of which it is composed are scattered around, and its original dimensions are irrecoverable. It is now somewhat longer than it is broad, being 41 feet from north to south, and 32 feet from east to west.—Visited, 12th June, 1914.

NOTE.—Mr. W. Wynne Ffoulkes' account of the opening of this cairn is given in *Arch. Camb.*, 1852, II, iii, 65, as follows:—"There being no specific name given either on the Ordnance map or by the country people to the mountain on which this carnedd is situated, it is not easy to mark its identity for the guidance of future antiquaries. It is situated on a mountain on the eastern side of the estuary of the Mawddach. Goleuvern, which is the farm nearest to it [now deserted], is situated on the mountain side, lower down than the carnedd, and to the north of it. An old bridle road leading from Llwyngwrl towards Dolgellau skirts it on the north, and the mountain on which it lies is part of the waste of the manor of Talybont. From it a fine view is obtained of Barmouth and its picturesque rocks, the estuary of the Mawddach, the distant mountains of Diphwys, and the chain of Llawlloch, with the intervening scene, and the whole line of the Caernarvonshire coast to the promontory of Llyn, with the island of Bardsey at its extremity . . . . Its [the carnedd's] appearance was that of a low mound, thinly coated over with mountain turf, through which here and there stones of moderate size protruded. It measured 34 by 38 feet in diameter; its elevation was low and its apex depressed and nearly flat<sup>1</sup>. We made a circular excavation at the centre of it and we found that it consisted entirely of stones, disposed with some regularity bedwise, and increasing in size as our excavation deepened. After a short time, we came to some large flat stones, which were laid as a protection to the covering-stone of a cist, the top of which was one foot 7 inches below the apex. This cist, which lay pretty nearly north and south, on its eastern and western sides, was strongly protected by large blocks of stone. The eastern side had given way, and leant inwards considerably out of the perpendicular. In form it was rectangular, and had a division placed across it at the distance of ten inches and three quarters from its northern extremity; from this division to its southern extremity it measured 2 feet 10 inches, and had in each compartment the uniform width of one foot 9 inches; its depth was one foot 5 inches. It required the united strength of two men to lift it. On first removing the covering-stone we were struck with the singular appearance of the deposit, which presented an even surface carefully strewed with flakes or chippings of stone, resembling in character the ordinary stone found upon the mountain; these covered a deposit of moist, clammy, yellowish, gravelly soil, with which the cist seemed to have been filled up to the height of three or four inches. This soil we carefully looked through, but without discovering any remnants of bone, or anything resembling a relic, either ornamental or war-like, excepting one piece of stone, now in the posession of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq., which was convex on one side, flat on the other, and rudely pointed at one end; the nature of the stone it was made of we are unable to describe geologically; we can only say that it was not of flint, but of a common and rather soft stone. We found it on the western side, and about the centre of the cist; not, as far as we could ascertain, deposited with any care. The smaller compartment at the northern extremity of the cist was filled up with large stones, beneath which was a similar stratum of gravelly soil. I have called this sepulchral monument a "carnedd"—and rightly so, I think—for I consider this term is properly applied to all such remains which are built purely with stone; and such a carnedd as that I now treat of I am inclined to ascribe to very great antiquity; for whether we are to conclude that bones never were deposited within the cist, or that such as had been deposited had returned to native dust, or whether we are to believe that we detected the presence or absence of stone weapons and other such relics—in either case we have all the evidence usually obtained of a rude and untutored age; how many centuries back we will not presume to fix; but I think without doubt, from the size and construction of the cist, we may conclude this carnedd belongs to the burning period; and from my experience of similar carneddau in which I have found burnt bones in very small particles mixed with soil placed in the cist, I think it is possible that bones burnt had been so mixed with the soil of this cist, and had crumbled away; but that the colour of the soil made it more difficult to distinguish the bony particles, and thus they must have escaped our observation. Then if this carnedd is rightly ascribed to the burning period, are we to draw any inference from the absence of a funeral urn? Mr. Wynne and myself have opened five or six carneddau on the hills<sup>2</sup> in this neighbourhood—in none have we found urns—in all, traces of cremation; yet there is no remarkable lack of clay in these soils. Stone is certainly universally used in building here, but only I think because it is everywhere easily attainable, and with less expense than brick—reasons which would scarcely have found a place with our rude forefathers to influence them to any deviation from their sacred sepulchral rites. But, besides this, we were informed by Mr. Edward Roberts of Dyssevin, that some years ago he lived near a farm called Sylvan, now held by Mr. Morris, and that when the mountains in that neighbourhood were enclosed, several carneddau were pulled down to furnish stone for the enclosure walls, he on that occasion saw several vessels of clay<sup>3</sup> which were discovered in those carneddau. Then here we find carneddau in this very neighbourhood<sup>4</sup> containing

<sup>1</sup> Its shape resembled that of Sir R. Hoare's broad or bowl barrows.—W. W. F.

<sup>2</sup> The hills north and south of the Mawddach.—W. W. F.

<sup>3</sup> These vessels he described as placed in 'rude stone chests.'—W. W. F.

<sup>4</sup> Sylvan is the other side of the vale—the northern side of the estuary of the Mawddach.—W. W. F.

## Parish of LLANEGRYN.

urns. Now perhaps there is no custom of which nations are so tenacious as that relating to sepulture; and of this we find abundant proof both in ancient and modern races. I therefore think we must conclude that this carnedd was raised at a period when men were strangers to the fictile art; or by a race among whom the cinerary urn was not in use: that this carnedd affords evidence of an occupation here at a time when our forefathers had scarce trod the first steps of civilization; or traces of an extirpated race, whose memorials have well-nigh perished with them. The preference for a carnedd, too, or mound of stones, should not be lost sight of in our reflection upon these monuments of the past."

247. *Bedd y Brenin* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 41' 1''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 9''$ ).

On the elevated and exposed moorland of Rhydcriw, and in the upper reaches of the rivulet Cwm Llwyd, are the relics of this carnedd, still over 5 feet in height and about 65 feet in diameter. Much of its material has been dug out and used for walling, and a hut built within it. Near its centre, and slightly above the surface level, are the remains of a cist.—Visited, 1st October, 1914.

NOTE.—This cairn was opened by Mr. W. Wynne Ffoulkes in the year 1851, whose account of the excavation (*Arch. Camb.*, 1852, II, iii, 96) is as follows:—“It is situated to the north of a flat called Gwele Meibion, which intervenes between it and the bridge Pont Llwyd, and on a ridge which connects the mountain called Pen garn with one to the east called Craig Cwm Llwyd, and overlooks the estuary of the Mawddach, which is to the north of it. Much of the apex having been removed to make shepherd-huts round its base, to shelter the guardians of the mountain flocks, the labour of excavation was considerably lessened. By this mutilation the imposing character which it must once have possessed was entirely destroyed. What once perchance reared itself in the distance a welcome landmark of the lonely traveller, is now almost to be sought for before seen. Some idea of its former proportions may be formed from its diameter, which was about 68 feet: its contour was circular. As in the carnedd last described, we sunk a circular shaft at the centre, and found that the carnedd consisted of stones, bedded in pretty regular layers, for the most part of one kind (the common stone of the country), interspersed, as our work proceeded deeper, with large lumps of burnt stone, the production of volcanic action<sup>1</sup>. Shortly after commencing our shaft we came to some animal bones loose in the carnedd and in an advanced state of decomposition; and again below these, to another portion of animal bone; and eventually to a very large flag stone, with a convex surface, of an irregular shape, inclining to that of a parallelogram, measuring 6 feet 3 inches in length, by 3 feet 3 inches in its widest part, and 6 and a half or 7 inches in thickness. This stone, which our two workmen and myself had great difficulty in moving, (we could not raise it), proved to be the covering-stone of a cist, measuring only 2 feet 4 or 5 inches in length, by one foot 8 inches in breadth, and 1 foot 3 inches in depth. I must not omit to mention that on the northern extremity of this stone were the bones of some diminutive animal, reduced to very small particles, and that, as in the last carnedd, this stone was protected by some smaller, but still large, flat stones, the edges of which rested upon it, on its eastern and western sides. The length of the cist lay north-west and south-east. On removing the cover, a flat stone of irregular shape, partaking of triangular form, nearly filling up the area of the cist, and covered with a cake of fine dark brown soil barely an inch in thickness, was presented to our view, together with four pieces of broken or boulder stones, one in each corner of the cist. On examination, the cake of fine dark brown soil, which was traversed by several cracks, as though from being once moist it had become dry, was found to contain very small particles of burnt bone, some of which were only discernible through a powerful magnifier. Owing to the sides of the cist being slightly out of the perpendicular<sup>2</sup> the flat stone was not extracted without some difficulty. We found that it rested on soil similar in quality to that with which it was covered, on the surface of which, in the centre of the area, were a number of stone flakes or chips resembling those observed in the cist of the carnedd at Goleuern. After removing these chips, many of which closely resembled the rudest type of arrow-head or knife<sup>3</sup>, we carefully turned over all the soil in the cist, and removed successively the four stones from the corners. Beneath each stone, and along the sides of the cist, we found burnt bone, which from its texture appeared to us to be human, in very small particles (the largest of which did not exceed an inch in length), in an advanced state of decay, and mixed with the soil, which was moist and clammy; the largest quantity of bone being found under each of the four stones. The bottom of the cist seemed to be level with the original surface of the ground.

The animal bones which were found in the carnedd, were submitted to Mr. Quekett, of the College of Surgeons, and the result he has arrived at respecting a portion of them bears testimony to the general utility and advantage of archaeological researches like the present. The bones I particularly allude to are those which were on the northern extremity of the cover-stone of the cist; these Mr. Quekett pronounced to be bones of frogs; and the frequent discovery of frogs' bones in mounds of this kind by burrowing antiquaries, have led naturalists to the conclusion that these places are selected by these little animals as their death-beds—that they there seek seclusion to die. The other bones found loose in the carnedd proved to be the tibia and other bones of deer, and a portion of the scapula of a sheep—the latter perhaps, more recent than the former; it was, however, found deeper in the carnedd.”

<sup>1</sup> The stone of this part of the country varies, I believe, very much; but the stone of this carnedd the workmen seemed to recognise as that commonly found on this ridge of mountain.—W. W. F.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Selwyn informed me he had met with similar stones on these mountains, which he considered to have been so burnt. They were very light for their size, and had numerous perforations in them like pumice stone, from which I saw in them but little distinction.—W. W. F.

<sup>3</sup> I think it not improbable that they were so set originally.—W. W. F.

‘I regret that I did not preserve some of them; we took some home with us, but, after some discussion and examination of them, we thought that they were mere pieces of broken stone; their presence, however, in the cist was remarkable, and the fractures appeared fresh and not at all worn by attrition.—W. W. F.

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## 248. Cairns and Cyttiau (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.W.).

(i) In the north of the parish and in the neighbourhood of the two cairns last described are the remains of several cairns and stone circles of the kind known as 'Cyttiau Gwyddelod.' Indeed, so numerous are the stone mounds about lat.  $52^{\circ} 41' 12''$  and between long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 11''$  and  $36''$  that it is doubtful whether any or most of them are genuine relics of antiquity. Directly south of the mounds are two enclosures, one over 120 feet in diameter, containing what appear to be two circular hut dwellings of small area. Close by are the ruins of an oval enclosure 30 feet by 11 feet which is probably not prehistoric.

About 500 yards eastward are two similar enclosures, with the foundations of at least seven circular structures. In one of these instances the small circles are outside the larger enclosure.

On a low hill east of the farmstead of Cyfannedd Fawr (36 S.E.) is a low circular bank of earth and stones, with the ruins of what appears to have been a cairn, and close by an unopened mound, 3 feet high and 13 feet diameter. Other stone mounds adjoin.

All these monuments were visited on different days in June, 1914.

(ii) In the southern part of the parish, immediately to the north of the village of Llanegryn (41 S.W.), and on the highest point of Yr allt lwyd is a carnedd that has been opened within recent years, but the result could not be ascertained. The cairn stands 5 feet high, and has an average diameter of 45 feet.—Visited, 3rd August, 1914.

About 300 yards to the south are two other cairns that have been very thoroughly rifled.

In the intervening space are a number of stone circles, some only about 8 feet in diameter. Their situation renders it almost impossible that these could have formed human dwelling places.

## DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

249. *Waen fach maenhir* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 23''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 36''$ ).

This should probably be regarded as an ancient monument inasmuch as the fields to the south-west as well as to the north of the stone are called respectively 'cae garreg hir' and 'cae garreg lwyd,' thus pointing to a period when the entire area was undivided. The stone is 5 feet 8 inches high. No traditions are connected with it.—Visited, 30th April, 1914.

250. *Bryn Seward Meini hirion* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 41' 8''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 4''$ ).

In the wall on the northern side of the mountain road from Llwyngwrl are two fine monoliths which have probably been moved to their present positions. The first is 7 feet 3 inches high. The second is about 50 yards down the road ; it is in height 5 feet 4 inches.—Visited, 12th June, 1914.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (CASTLE MOUNTS WITHOUT ENCLOSURES).

251. *Tomen Ddreiñiog* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 42''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 21''$ ).

This is an earthen mound, about 25 ft. high, placed on the right or western bank of the river Dysynni. It lies so close to the water that the river forms part of the defences of the position, and its moat was probably filled from the stream. The summit is uneven owing to diggings in search of treasure. The diameter is about 45 ft. There are no indications of a bailey, but these are hardly to be expected, the field having been cultivated for centuries.—Visited, 30th April, 1914.

NOTE :—This was the caput or *llys* of the commote of Talybont, and the place whence in 1275 Llewelyn ap Gruffydd addressed a letter to the archbishops of Canterbury and York.

[Illustrated, fig. 6.]



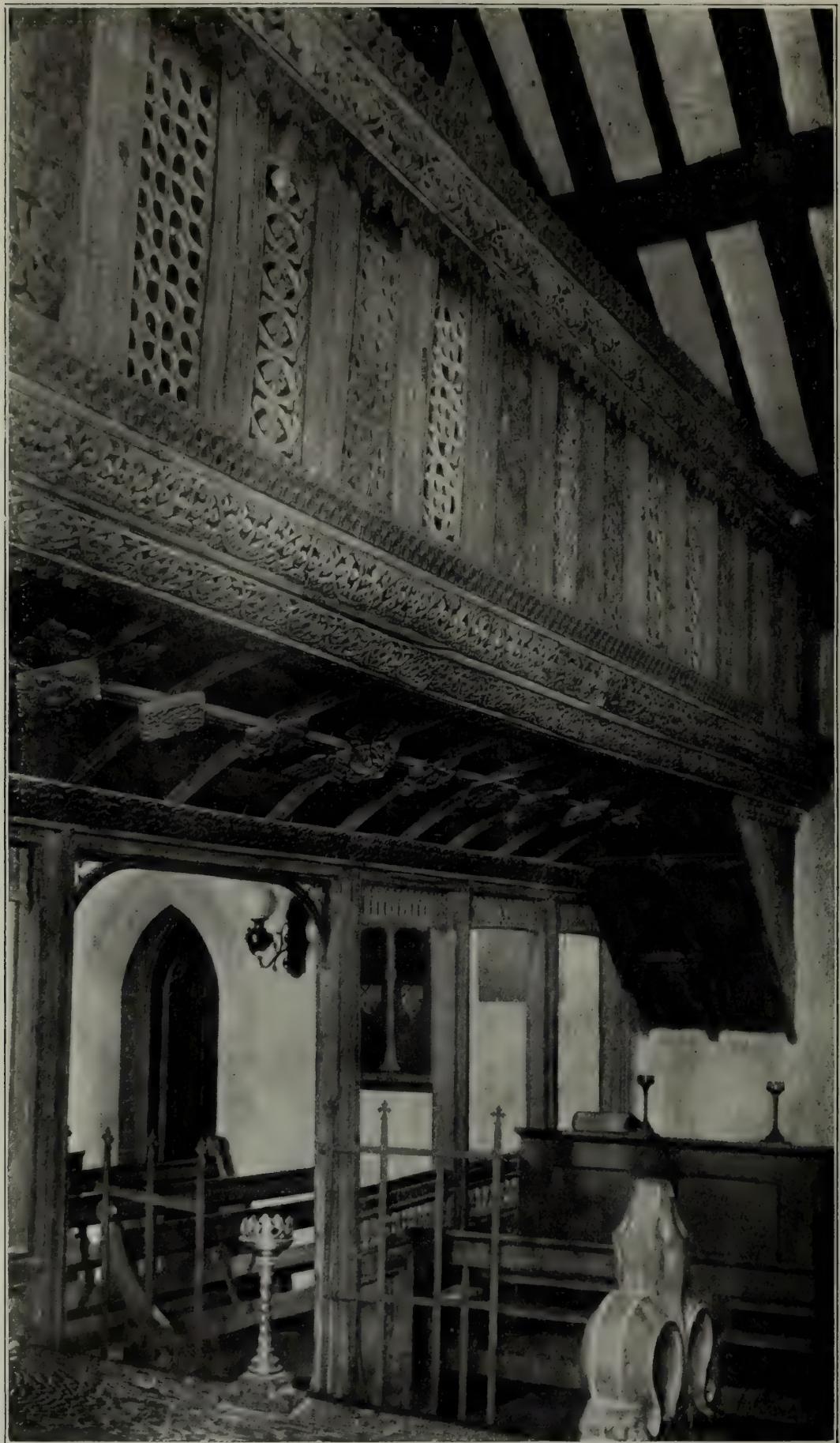
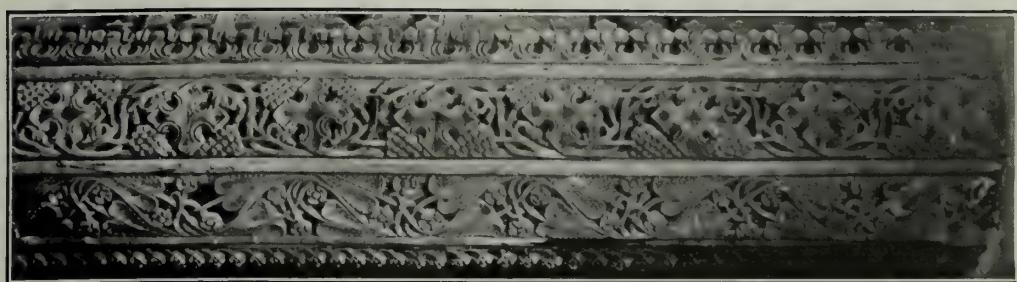


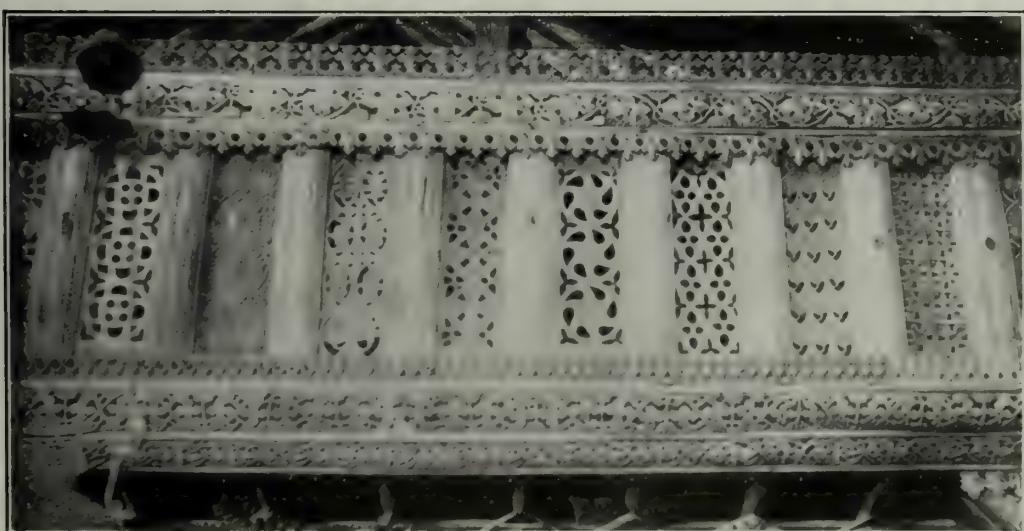
FIG. 90. LLANEGRYN: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 253); rood loft and screen, east side.



i. Details of cornice, west side of screen.



ii. Front view of screen, west side.



iii. Details of loft, east side.

FIG. 91. LLANEGRYN: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 253); details of rood loft and screen.



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## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

252. *Cyfannedd Fawr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 41' 22''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 38''$ ).

This is a house built in the year 1748, according to an inscription above the front door. In its perfect plainness it is typical of the houses of the small gentry or yeomen of the mid-18th century. It is of only one story above the ground floor, and has the usual Merionethshire pointed dormers above. The interior has been divested of its original timbering.—Visited, 12th June, 1914.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

253. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.W.). Ded: St. Mary the Virgin. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ystumaner; townships of Rhyderiw, and Peniarth.

This small church consists of a single chamber, the division between chancel and nave being marked by a rood loft and screen, south porch, vestry, and bell turret over the western gable. The church was thoroughly restored in 1876, when certain changes were made in the early windows, and a north aisle was added. The elaborate

rood loft and screen will be best judged from the illustrations which are given of it. It is altogether disproportionate to such a small church, and in this respect, as also in a sense of over-elaboration, it is comparable with the equally famed screen of Llananno, co. Radnor (see illustrations at p. 59

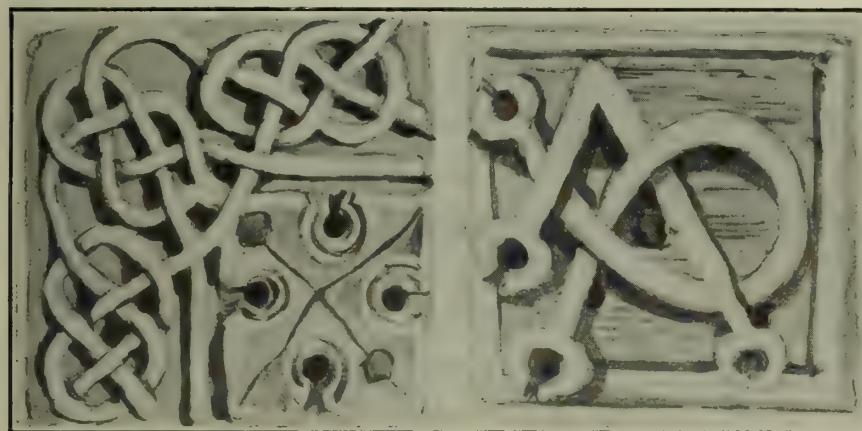


Fig. 92.

of the Inventory of Monuments of that county). The font is square without and round within, which has led to the supposition that it dates from the Norman period. This is antecedently improbable, and inasmuch as it exhibits no distinctive character it is impossible to ascribe it to any specific period. It belongs to the class of plain square fonts of which there are a number of examples in the country churches of western Wales which may be allowed to be old but for which no approximate date can be suggested. Outside the south wall of the chancel is a stone on which is incised an equal armed cross—probably a consecration cross. The churchyard contains one old yew tree. On the north side are several graves of the Owens of Bronyclydwr, one being the burial place of the Rev. Hugh Owen, the evangelist.—Visited, 2nd May, 1914.

[Illustrated, figs. 22, 90, 91.]

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

254. An early road which, later, became the usual road from Towyn to Dolgelly, enters this parish from the north at lat.  $52^{\circ} 39' 12''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 14''$  (41 S.W.). It runs along the lower slopes of Allt Iwyd, keeping well above the line of floods. The road accommodates itself to the country it traverses, but its course trends northwards, with a slight easterly turn; in its upper part it is known as 'Y ffordd ddu,' 'the black (or gloomy) road.' It is almost certainly a road that was not constructed or even used by the Romans; and it does not appear to be known in any part of its course by the name Sarn Elen.—Traversed, 16th June, 1914.

## Parish of LLANEGRYN.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

255. *Ffynnon y Fron* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 15''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 16''$ ).

This is a well situated a short mile to the north-east of the parish church in a wood called Coed y fron on the southern slope of the mountain mass of Yr allt lwyd. The original well seems to have given place to a roughly but carefully constructed stone enclosure, 14 ft. by 9 ft. 6 in., having steps in the middle of one side leading down to the water. The water was formerly in much repute for the cure of rheumatism.—Visited, 3rd August, 1914.

NOTE:—The well does not seem to have borne the name of the local saint, or of the Virgin Mary, who became the patroness of the church when the app opriation passed into the hands of Cymmer abbey. In the 17th century the early springs and well chambers were considerably altered by land owners and influential families to form private bathing places; they were often covered in and conveniences for dressing were added. The well of Y Fron was probably rudely covered and protected.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

256. *Cae'r garreg fawr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, 41 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 17''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 5''$ ).—Tithe Schedule, No. 291.

257. *Cae'r garreg fawr* (41 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 20''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 15''$ ) ; on the farm of Waun, 200 yards north-west of the previous site.—Tithe Schedule, No. 363.

258. *Cae'r garn* (46 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 56''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 20''$ ).—Tithe Schedule, No. 896.

259. *Garnedd ucha* (46 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 50''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 20''$ ).—Tithe Schedule, No. 813.

260. *Garnedd goch* (46 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 45''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 20''$ ).—Tithe Schedule, No. 811. The three preceding sites adjoin, each to the northward of the other.

261. *Rhyd y garnedd*, 'the ford of the cairn' (46 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 8''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 55''$ ).—Tithe Schedule, No. 753.

262. *Cae'r garreg lwyd* (41 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 43''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 46''$ ) ; on the farm of Bryn eglwys.—Tithe Schedule, No. 515.

263. *Cae'r ymryson*, 'the field of the encounter' (41 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 30''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 34''$ ).

Most, perchance all, of the above sites may possess no archaeological significance, though it is unlikely that Nos. 258–261 should have received the names that they bear for any other reason than their propinquity to a cairn that has disappeared. No. 263 is recorded as possibly enshrining some tradition that may lurk in the neighbourhood. All the sites were visited in April and May, 1914.

264. *Bryn Seward* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 41' 9''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 4''$ ).

The top of this hill is surrounded by a low bank of stones and earth, enclosing a space of 35 feet in diameter. Inside the enclosure on the south-east are the remains of two low walls curving inwardly so as partly to meet each other. The site is probably a sheep pen.

There are numerous cairns and hut circles on the eastern side of the hill which are noticed above.—Visited, 12th June, 1914.

265. *Cae mynach* (41 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 43''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 4''$ ).—Tithe Schedule, No. 345.

## Parish of LLANEGRYN.

266. *Cae ysgubor yr abad*, 'the field of the abbot's barn' (41 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 43''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 15''$ ).

This and the preceding Cae mynach are some of the possessions of Cymmer abbey. In Cae'r abad are a few ruins of the old tithe barn which may date from the early part of the 16th century.—Visited, 2nd May, 1914.

267. *Cae'r brenin*, 'the king's field' (41 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 26''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 25''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 115.—Doubtless a part of the ancient lands of the crown. There is another Cae brenin (Tithe Schedule, No. 328) about two miles to the west.

268. *Sarn* (46 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 10''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 34''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 837.—This is the name of a field situated at an angle where two old roads meet ; close by is a small farmstead called 'Ty bach y ffordd.'—Visited, 30th April, 1914.

269. *Ruined building* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 41' 7''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 18''$ ).

A little north of the mountain road from Llwyngwrl to Dolgelly, on the south-western slope of the high ground called Bryn Seward, and at the spot indicated above, are foundations much resembling in character, if not in extent, those of Llys Bradwen (No. 421) ; they are doubtless the ruins of a medieval house. On plan it is a parallelogram, 69 feet by 19 feet, the walls being formed of an inner and outer line of stones with a filling of earth. The entrance was probably on the east side. In the interior a low curving bank starts from the west wall, but stops or is destroyed about halfway from the opposite side. If this place was constructed for a sheepfold, it is of more elaborate construction than usual.—Visited, 4th August, 1914.

270. *Gwely'r Meibion* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 40' 40''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 30''$ ).

This is the name of a Welsh tribal holding that survived to the close of last century, and may still be known to one or two very aged residents, though fruitless enquiries made of many persons well acquainted with the neighbourhood showed that it has dropped out of common knowledge and usage. Originally the personal-name of the stock-father of the kin must have formed part of the place-name, which would have run "gwely'r meibion so-and-so" ; a number of instances will be found in the Survey of Merionethshire printed in the *Record of Caernarvon*, but it is impossible to say whether anyone of those enumerated under Llanegrynn is that to which the present entry refers.

271. *Llwyn gwely'r sarff*.

In the Hist. MSS. Commission's report on the Peniarth MSS., now in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (Vol. 1, pt. 2, p. 847; MS. 135, almost entirely in the hand of Gruffydd Hiraethog, c. 1560), is the following statement :—

*Ll. egrynn—tre beniarth* : yn y dre hon lle gelwir llwyn y gardd yn ymyl maes ynevadd rrwng moel gwely'r sarff a deav orllewin yni lle by adail mawr y brigs etto iw gweled affenestri yn y ddayar ac ir oedd yllawr wedi pafio o geric ysgwar ar lvn disie kasestric [ ? kallestric] yn disgeimo to o glai yn gyntaf to o dywod yn nessaf a tho o galch ac yn hwnnw y keric ysgwar wedi gossod.

This may be translated as follows :—

Llanegrynn : Peniarth township : in this township at a place called Llwyn y gardd [the garden grove] close to Maes y neuadd [the hall meadow] between Gwely'r sarff [the dragon's lair] and the south-west has been a considerable building of which the bricks are yet to be seen, and windows in the earth, and a good space was paved with squared stone after the fashion of [ ? flint] dice embedded first in a covering of clay, next a covering of sand, and [next] a covering of lime, and with the squared stones fixed in the last.

This description suggests the remains of a Roman building, and it is desirable that the site should be located. Unfortunately the names have for the most part been forgotten. But we learn that it was in the township of Peniarth, and 'the garden grove,' and 'the hall meadow' suggest the conjecture that it cannot have been far from the present mansion of Peniarth, which, itself not more than 150 years old, is probably built on the site of an earlier house. Immediately to the north of the grounds of the mansion is a wood called 'Llwyn.' This word must originally

## Parish of LLANEGRYN.

have had a better understood significance. 'Maes y neuadd' cannot have been far from the hall. The interesting place-name 'Gwely y sarff,' 'the serpent's bed or lair,' affords no clue to its location. It is possible that an examination of the early estate rolls at Peniarth might afford further evidence, and a careful examination of the ground immediately adjacent to the wood of Llwyn should be undertaken.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

272. *Stone pounder.* A stone pounder from Peniarth is now in the British Museum.

273. *Bronze celt.* In the summer of 1855, a bronze looped celt was discovered near the Goleuwern quarries. It is described as being well preserved; and it was then in the possession of Mr. Edward Vaughan (Morris, *Cantref Merionydd*, 1890, p. 312), whom it has been impossible to trace.

## Parish of LLANELLYD.

## DIVISION Ia (TUMULI).

274. *Pentre Tumulus* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 16''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 39''$ ).

Within about 300 yards directly south of the ruins of Cymmer Abbey, and in the yard of the farmstead of Pentre, is a mound about 6 feet high, with a diameter varying from 56 feet to 71 feet. The mound has been proved by excavation to be sepulchral, the account of Mr. W. Wynne Ffoulkes in *Arch. Camb.*, 1874, IV, v, 314, being as follows:—

"The tumulus itself is situated to the south of the farmhouse and close to it. It rises sharply into a cone-like form above the surrounding ground, and being situated on the top of a little knoll which slopes away on all sides it appeared to be much higher than it really was. I should say, speaking roughly, that the real height of the tumulus was not more than 12 feet, measured perpendicularly from the floor disclosed by the cutting which was made in it. It was pretty nearly circular, its diameter measuring 54 feet from north to south, and 45 feet from east to west or thereabouts.

"Externally it was covered with bright green sward—a characteristic which the word 'glas' in [a] lease [see below] indicates it possessed three hundred and forty years ago. On the 6th of September, 1871, . . . a trench had been commenced into it from the south. Its internal structure beneath the outer coating of sward was of large stones of varying size, some so large as to be more than one man could lift. As the trench was carried on, were [? we] found on the south side of the mound and near the surface pieces of crockery of recent character, a small circular iron nut without any screw thread inside it, and another piece of iron resembling the stem of a candlestick, both recent. Proceeding onwards with the trench, about the centre was found a long stake of firwood, which had been driven straight down into the mound; it had been there long enough to become a good deal decayed, but it still must be regarded as recent. These were what we may call our superficial discoveries. As we got somewhat deeper, we came to charcoal in considerable quantities, in which, on the southern side of the mound, one of those perforated stone discs, designated by some buttons, by others, spindle-whorls, was found: this no doubt is archaic, but presenting no unusual features either of decoration or shape.

"Soon after this discovery, but deeper in the mound, we came to a regular floor at 3 feet 3 inches immediately below the apex. It was formed of a sort of clay a few inches thick, closely compacted. It was covered with charcoal and extended in the same plane throughout the mound. Here we found a small deposit of burnt bones, simply laid together on the floor and apparently covered by design with some small stones, principally sea-shore pebbles. With these bones was a small piece of bronze which had lost all shape from corrosion. We did not then follow out this floor laterally, but dug through it down deeper into the mound, and eventually came to another floor similar in character to the one already described; we dug through this and came to maiden soil, which showed that we had now come to the bottom of the tumulus, and that it had been originally raised upon the floor last found. On this floor, and as near as we could judge about the centre of the mound, we came upon a considerable deposit of burnt bones. They appeared to be simply laid together on the clay floor and charcoal, and were covered with a number of small rounded stones mostly from the river or sea-shore, many of which had been completely burnt. Among the bones were found a very smooth, thin, unwrought stone of a dark blue slaty colour (of which we give an engraving, figs., 10, 11), about 3 inches long, evidently placed by design among them, also a remarkable object made of sheet lead rolled and tightly compacted together,

## Parish of LLANELLYD.

in form like a small plummet-weight, with a hole through it. This was unfortunately subsequently lost out of a box in which it had been placed for safety, but we give an engraving (fig. 7), of a similar leaden object (so exactly like the lost treasure that one could not be distinguished from the other if they were placed side by side). It was found in the foundation of a 'cwt' in a camp on Craig Aderyn near Towyn, some years ago. In the same 'cwt' were also found a portion of a round curved leaden bar (perhaps part of an armlet) and some Romano-British pottery. All these relics are now at Peniarth, in the keeping of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq. It was now the 8th of September, and we had worked at our diggings continuously since the 6th. We deferred further operations till the 12th. Pursuing our examination of this floor, we found two other deposits of burnt bones laid together on the floor and covered much in the same way as the last with small round stones, which by pressure had become imbedded in the bones; with these we also found unburnt animal bones and two small pieces of sheet lead, of one of which an engraving (fig. 1), is given, and shows it to be slightly curled up at each end. We found other smaller deposits of burnt bones on this floor, but they appeared more as if they had been either accidentally dropped, or designedly strewed about than as constituting separate and distinct interments. Before leaving our researches on this floor I may observe that the stones of which the tumulus was formed seemed in the neighbourhood of the interments generally larger than elsewhere, indeed there was some appearance of a sort of circle of larger stones enclosing the space within which the interments were made, but I do not speak confidently of this. The charcoal was in considerable quantity and often so well preserved that we got large pieces showing the tissue of the wood.

"We now returned to the upper floor, and following it out to the outer slope, to the surface almost of which it extended, we found on the west side of our trench a deposit of burnt bones, which appeared to have been placed in a slight cavity scooped in the floor, and to have been protected by large stones placed upon it. On the east side of the trench we also found a deposit of burnt bones laid, as those on the lower floor, together on the floor with similar small stones over them. With these we found deposited a well-finished four-sided rectangular stone object with truncated ends and a small hole perforating one end from side to side, as if for the purpose of suspension (see engraving annexed, figs. 8, 9). We also found some pieces of bronze, which, owing to their excessively corroded condition, I had great difficulty in removing; of two of these an engraving is annexed (figs. 2, 3, 4). In the neighbourhood of the deposit were found some pieces of iron so corroded as to render it impossible to make out their character; we can do no more than engrave them, as they were undoubtedly archaic (figs. 5, 6). With both of these deposits we found quantities of charcoal, often in large pieces, giving perfect section of the boughs which had been burnt, and showing the tissue of the wood. . . . I think we may conclude from the facts brought to light that the tumulus had been used for the purpose of burial at two different periods of the same era. This, I think, is indicated by the two floors and the character of the interments. There is reason, too, I think, for supposing that it was the burial place of one tribe, perhaps of the generations of one family only. The animal bones were pronounced by Mr. [now Sir William] Boyd Dawkins to be those of the *bos longifrons*, red deer, calf and sheep . . . .

"If I may hazard an opinion as to the age of Tomen Lâs I should say that the presence of the iron relics and the remains of jewelled bronze ornaments indicate that it belongs to a comparatively late period of primitive antiquity, though anterior to the Roman occupation of this island. Tomen Lâs, unlike any of the sepulchral mounds which I opened in Merionethshire in former years (which in every instance were not covered with sward, but simply *carneddau*), partakes in structure of the character of Bryn Bugeilen, which was on the confines of Denbighshire and Shropshire, and is described in this Journal ([*Arch. Camb.*], vol. ii, new series, p. 219), but differs from it in the absence of an urn and the mode of the deposit. In both of these respects it resembles all the other grave mounds which I have previously examined in the county, except that in those a cist was invariably present, within which the burnt bones were deposited in the soil. The mode of deposit points to a ruder age than the iron and jewelled bronze relics indicate. I think the animal bones, too, being those of the *bos longifrons*, red deer, calf and sheep, favour the idea of the tumulus belonging to a late period. So does the leaden plummet-weight, of which we have the counterpart in the one found on Craig Aderyn, where it lay in company with Romano-British pottery."

See No. 348, below.

In reference to the name Y Domen Lâs, given to the mound by Mr. Wynne Ffoulkes on the presumed authority of the copy of a conveyance in one of the Peniarth MSS. (No. 208) now in the National Library of Wales, it may be observed that there is no reason to believe that the "tyddyn y domen las" of the document is the same as Pentre farm. 'Pentre' was evidently the name of the township in which both the parish church of Llanelltyd and the abbey of Cymmer were situated, and there is in the township another mound (No. 276) with at least equal claim to be the veritable Domen lâs.

## DIVISION II. (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

275. *Enclosure on Moel Cynwch* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 58''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 41''$ ).

The hill commonly known as Moel Cynwch, but also occasionally called Moel Vaner, rises above the 900 feet contour line. The upper part of the hill is enclosed by a rough stone wall which is much broken down, but stands in places from 3 to 4 feet in height. On the east side a part of the inside face of the wall has been preserved, which is here about 9 feet thick. The dimensions of the enclosure are 66 feet from north to south, and 55 feet from east to west. The surface of the interior is uneven. The entrance, a mere gap, is on the south-east. The site commands a fine prospect of the Mawddach estuary.—Visited, 24th September, 1913.

## Parish of LLANELLYD.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION D (CASTLE MOUNTS WITHOUT ENCLOSURES).

276. *Cymmer Castle* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 45''$ ).

This is a flat-topped mound about 15 feet in average height, and a summit diameter of 43 feet. On the top of the mound is a building of castellated style which was erected probably in the 18th century as a summer house. It is now a neglected ruin. There are no indications of a bailey or a moat; the former may never have existed, and the latter may have been filled up when the summer house was erected.—Visited, 20th September, 1913.

NOTE.—This is probably the site of the castle of Cymmer, which, according to Robert Vaughan, "the sons of Cadwgan ap Bleddyg overthrew in A.D. 1113 upon some displeasure against the sons of Uchdryd ap Edwin, who had built the same."

It stands within the township of Pentre, of which it, doubtless, was the caput, and is probably the Domen las which Mr. W. Wynne Ffoulkes has taken to be the same with the Pentre sepulchral mound (No. 274).

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

277. *Cymmer or Vaner Abbey* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 29''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 43''$ ).

The only monastic establishment in the county of Merioneth, was founded in the year 1199 by a few Welsh chieftains, and peopled by a body of Cistercian monks drawn from the Radnorshire abbey of Cwmhir. It received a charter from prince Llewelyn ap Iorwerth confirmatory of the grants that had been made to it. It possessed the churches of Llanelltyd, Llanegryn and Llanfachreth, but its total revenues at the Dissolution were only £51 13s. 4d.\*

Architecturally, the abbey of Cymmer does not appear to have at any time possessed any features of interest or importance. The abbey church consisted of a

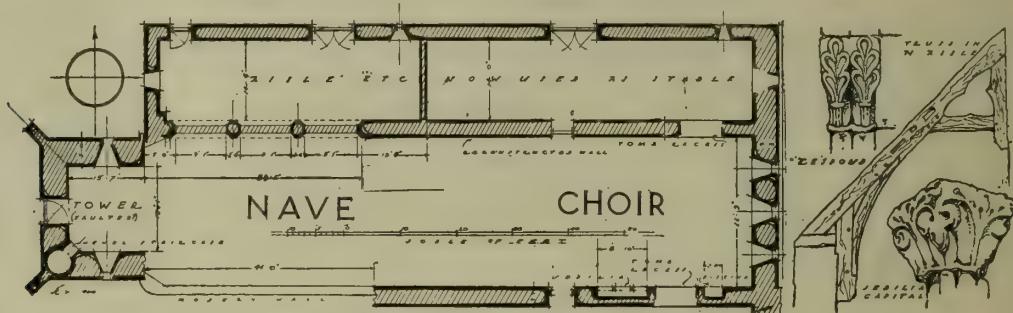


Fig. 93.

nave with aisles, but had no structural division between nave and chancel; there do not seem to have been any transepts. Thus in plan the church did not differ from many parish churches, except in somewhat greater length and height. The entire length from east to west is 112 feet, the breadth of the nave is 26 feet and of the north aisle 13 feet 10 inches. The whole structure is unroofed, and the south aisle pulled down, this destruction probably following quickly upon the suppression of the house, and doubtless further mutilations followed in subsequent years. The few decorative details that remain show the church to have been erected in the latter years of the 12th or the opening years of the 13th century, and it does not seem to have been much added to or altered during the whole period of its existence. In the east wall are three lofty Early English lancets, and there are three similar lancets

\* The site of the abbey and most of its spiritual possessions were leased to one John Powis or Powes, an official of the court of Henry VIII, for 21 years. Powes assigned the parsonage (i.e., the rectorial tithes) of Llanegryn to Willam Stumppe or Stamp, and he in turn conveyed his interest to Lewys ap Owen (of Peniarth) for £20 10s. 0d. per annum. No payment of this rent was made, and Stumppe petitioned the Court of Augmentations for redress (Public Record Office: *Court of Augmentation Proceedings, Bundle 16, No. 12*; whence the above particulars have been drawn).

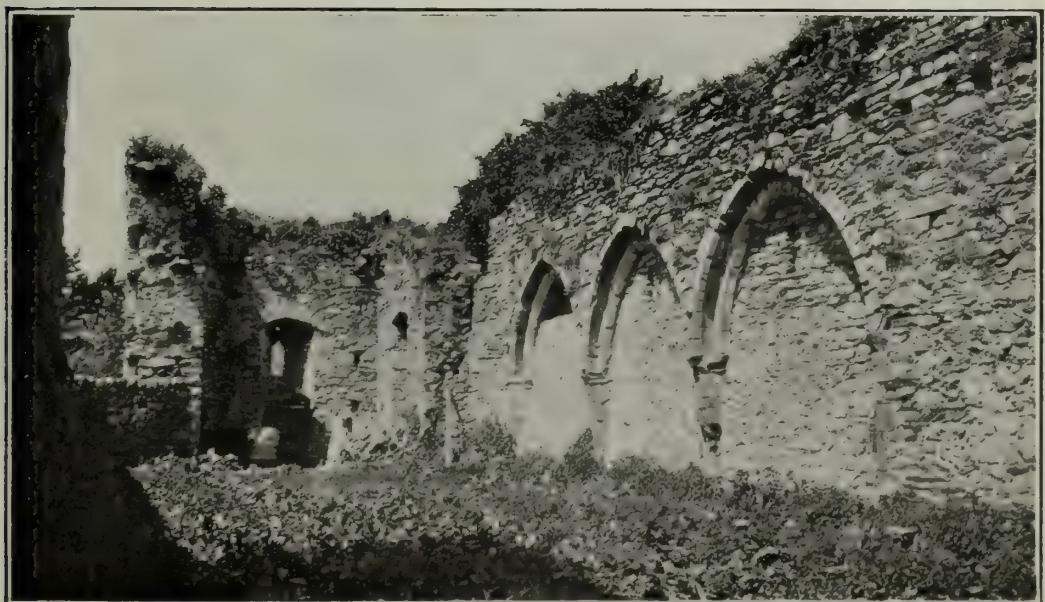
The abbey possessed an iron forge in the parish of Trawsfynydd, which in 1391 was being worked by the Crown (P.R.O.: *Ministers' Accounts, 1203/2*). The Account for 1397-8 (1203/4) shows that the abbot claimed to have the amerciaments imposed on all his tenants resident eight leagues from the towns of Harlech and Bala. The last abbot of Cymmer was one Lewis Thomas. In 1537 he was appointed suffragan bishop "in the see of St. Asaph," the said Lewis having been nominated thereto along with John Godfrey late prior of Penmon, co. Anglesea, by Robert, bishop of St. Asaph (P.R.O.: *Patent Roll, June, 1537*; *Calendar, xii, (2), p. 80*).



i. East end, exterior.



ii. Nave, looking east.



iii. Nave, looking west.



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at the west end of the south wall. The sedilia on the south side of the chancel are of the same date. Two recesses in the walls were probably occupied by tombs. Practically the whole of the conventional buildings have been swept away, and the

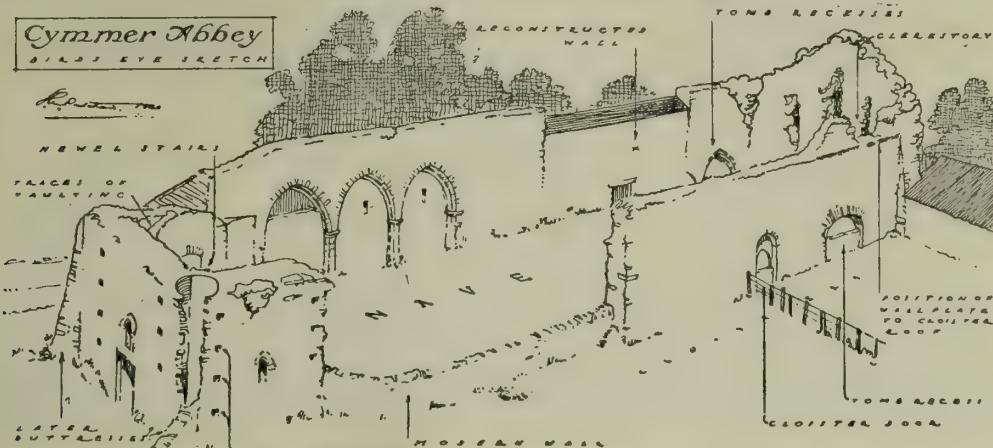


Fig. 94.

adjacent farm-house reveals no traces of their presence. On the north side of the chancel are some farm buildings with a few roof timbers that may be of the last years of the abbey.—Visited, 17th September, 1913.

Arch. Camb., 1846, I, i, 445; 1919, VI, xix, 545; Journal Brit. Arch. Assoc., 1878, xxxiv, 212 (Loftus Brock).

[Illustrated, fig. 95, i, ii, iii.]

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

278. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.W.). Ded: St. Illtyd. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ardudwy; township of Pentre and others unknown.

This church is in plan a simple parallelogram, having no constructional division between nave and chancel. The walls are doubtless for the most part old, but the principal details date from the Perpendicular period. Repairs have taken place at different times, as is shown by the date 1636 on a stone just west of the north doorway. The windows are modern. The font in use is new, but the bowl of the earlier

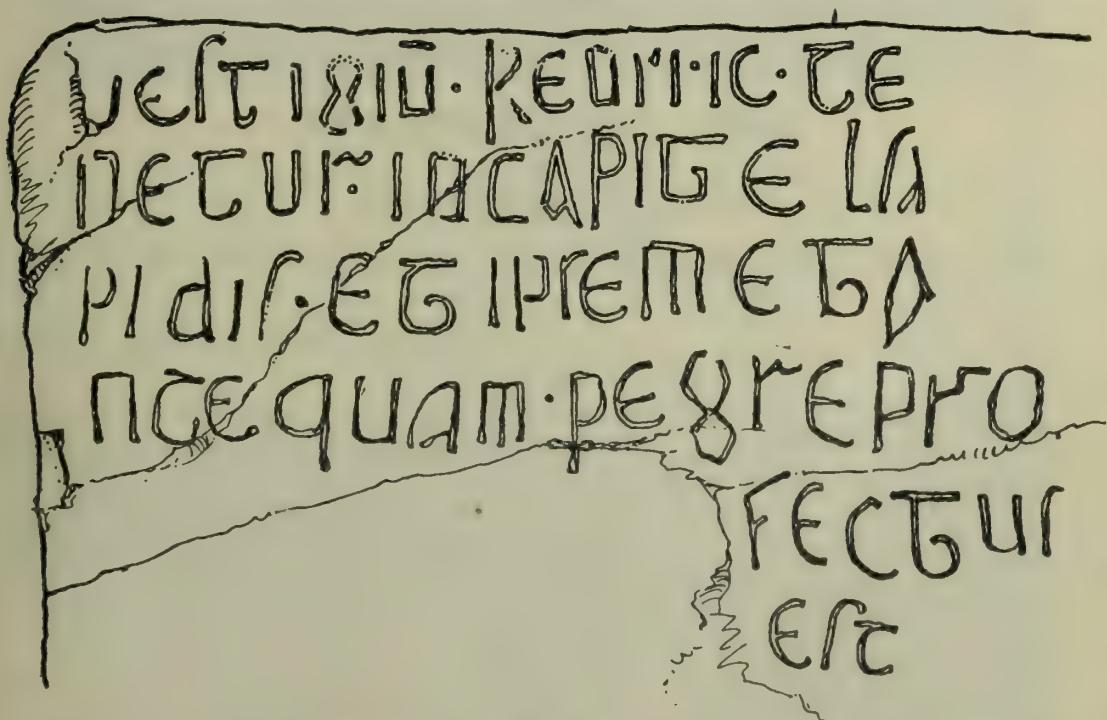


Fig. 96.

font which bears the date 1689 is preserved in the church. In the south porch is a cylindrical vessel which may have been used as a stoup; it has no drain. In the porch

**Parish of LLANELLYTD.**

also is an inscribed stone which was read by the late Sir John Rhys: *VESTIGIU[M] RE . . . IC TENETUR IN CAPITE LAPIDIS ET IPSEMET ANTEQUAM P[ER]EGRE PROFECTUS EST.*\* On the walls of the church are memorials to the Vaughans of Nannau and Hengwrt. The churchyard, which contains four ancient yews, was nearly circular before its enlargement.—Visited, 24th September, 1913.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1897, V, xiv, 139; Westwood, *Lapid. Walliae*, p. 157, pl. lxxiv.  
[Illustrated, fig. 109.]

**DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).**

279. *Foel Ysbri* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 46''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 20''$ ).

In Peniarth MS. 118, a volume written by Dr. Sion Dafydd Rhys about the year 1600, now in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, is the following passage:

And in the land of Merioneth also in the parish of Llanelltyd and the commote of Arduwy, and a little from the other hills, and on the other side of the river [Mawddach] that divides the commotes [of Arduwy and Talyllyn] is another hill called Moel Ysbry because Ysbry Gawr had his dwelling there; from whose name the hill received its name (Translation (H. Owen) in *Y Cymroddor*, 1917, xxvii, 127).

The hill, which attains a height of just above 1,000 feet, is now known as Foel Ysbri or Isbri. There are no indications of an enclosure, whether military or otherwise, but a quantity of loose stones lie around.—Visited, 10th October, 1920.

279A. *Maes y garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 24''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 45''$ ).

A farmstead about half-a-mile west of the village of Llanelltyd. There are no appearances of a carnedd, but the popular explanation is that the house stands on the site of a stone mound that was cleared away to make room for the dwelling.—Visited, 28th April, 1914.

**DIVISION VII (FINDS).**

280. A gold ring bearing the figure of St. Catherine, said to have been found at Cymmer Abbey, was exhibited by the late Mr. W. W. E. Wynne at the Machynlleth meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association in the year 1866 (*Arch. Camb.*, III, xii, 545). The ring is at Peniarth.

**Parish of LLANENDDWYN.****DIVISION Ib (CROMLECHAU).**

281. *The Dyffryn Cromlechau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 3''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 34''$ ).

These are two cromlechs situated on rising ground east of the village of Dyffryn, and visible from it. They are 30 feet apart.

(i) The higher or eastern cromlech. The capstone is supported by five upright stones, one at the west end, one on the south side, and three smaller ones on the north; the east end is open. The capstone is 10 feet 6 inches long, 9 feet broad, greatest depth 2 feet 2 inches; it is tilted from north-west to south-east. On the ground within the cromlech is a flat slate slab, 4 feet 4 inches long by 2 feet 9 inches broad. A rough modern wall of stones has been erected between some of the stones, but the whole may have been once covered, as a huge heap of debris directly adjoins the cromlech.

(ii) The lower or western cromlech. The capstone is supported by six uprights, two on each side and one at either end; it is 8 feet 6 inches long and 6 feet broad,

\* After two careful inspections of the stone, the Secretary of the Commission is inclined to read the proper name, which Professor Westwood deciphered as *Renic*, and Sir John Rhys, *Re—ic*, as *REDHIC*, which, with a possible but now very indistinct contraction-mark, would make the name into *Red[er]ic*.



FIG. 97. LLANENDDWYN: CROMLECH AT DYFFRYN; east (No. 281).



FIG. 98. LLANENDDWYN: CROMLECH AT DYFFRYN; east (No. 281).



FIG. 99. LLANENDDWYN: CROMLECHS (2) AT DYFFRYN (No. 281).



## Parish of LLANENDDWYN.

and leans from east to west. The uprights vary from 3 feet 6 inches to 2 feet 6 inches in height, and one at least appears to have been brought to a level artificially.—Visited, 15th October, 1913.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1869, III, xv, 132 (illustrated), where the cromlechs are said to be at Corsygedol; the *Liverpool Committee for Excavation and Research in Wales and the Marches*, 1st Report for 1908, p. 49, with two illustrations.

These cromlechau are traditionally connected with Arthur, who is fabled to have thrown the stones from the top of Moelfre; they are sometimes called 'Cerrig Arthur' and sometimes 'Coetan Arthur.'

[Illustrated, figs. 97-99.]

282. *Gwern Carnyddion Cromlech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 28''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 15''$ ).

In a recess of the enclosing wall of the field still known as Cae'r gromlech on the farm of Gwern Carnyddion is the partially destroyed capstone of a cromlech, the stones of which, according to the tenant, were blown to pieces over 40 years ago; but the capstone in the main resisted the force of the explosion, and is still surmounted by a quantity of debris. It was stated, however, by one who has known the place for many years that the cromlech was standing seven or eight years back; which suggests that there may have been two efforts to break up the stones.—Visited, 13th October, 1913.

283. *Bron y foel Cromlech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 15''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 41''$ ).

At the spot indicated is a recumbent stone which is almost certainly the capstone of a demolished cromlech. It is 15 feet 8 inches long, with breadth varying from 6 feet 4 inches to 4 feet.



Fig. 100.

One end is raised slightly off the ground on small rounded stones that probably formed part of the cromlech.—Visited, 22nd October, 1913.

#### DIVISION Id (CIRCLES, ETC.).

284. *Hut Circles on Moelfre* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.).

The greater bulk of the wild and wind-swept hill called Moelfre is situated in this parish, and on the slopes are the remains of many structures, some few of which may be prehistoric; but the larger number are the ruined walls of the enclosures called in medieval times "ffriths" (W., ffriddoedd), the bounds of which were the subject of frequent disputes in the Elizabethan period.

(i) At or immediately near lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 20''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 29''$ , is a group of hut circles and other enclosures, the best preserved of which still present features that distinguish them from the category of prehistoric dwellings or Cyttiau Gwyddelod. They usually combine round and rectangular chambers, and are probably structures

## Parish of LLANENDDWYN.

intended as much for sheep as for their shepherds. Dimensions of those that are measurable would be of little value.

[Illustrated, *Bron y Foel hut circles, figs. 101, 102.*]

(ii) Around the spot marked "Carn" on the Ordnance sheet (26 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 5''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 16''$ ) is another group of similar buildings, of which much the same account has to be given.

(iii) What has probably greater claims to be regarded as a true early monument is a very imperfect but sufficiently definite stone circle slightly raised above boggy ground about 200 yards south-west of the mountain farm of Tal y ffynnonau. The diameter of the circle is about 27 feet. Three stones stand to the average height of 18 inches, many others have almost disappeared into the soft soil, and there is a nearly square half-sunken slab in or near the centre of the circle. The site is at lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 43''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 45''$  (32 N.W.).

(iv) A few yards to the north-east of the last circle is another of about 30 feet in diameter; four boulders only are above the surface, one of these being 4 feet high. A litter of small stones within the circle makes it highly probable that it is the remains of a cairn which has been cleared away.

(v) At lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 10''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 28''$ , the Ordnance sheet (26 S.W.) marks "Remains of Circles." The remains are of two buildings parallel to each other, rectangular at one end, the other rounded; they measure 66 feet by 35 feet. A few upright stones, one 4 feet high, stand in the foundations. Immediately south of this building is a smaller one. The foundations in both cases are of earth containing large stones, and the whole bears a striking resemblance to Llys Bradwyn (No. 421).

(vi) In a marshy area on the southern slope of Moelfre (26 S.W. and 32 N.W., lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 10''-0''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 39''-45''$ ) are a number of mounds, the majority long and narrow but a few irregularly round, some with stone platforms and some without. These were probably turf stacks; the marshy character of the ground makes it impossible that they can represent circular dwellings or burials.

All the above were visited in October, 1913, or May, 1914.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

285. *Berllysg Camp* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 45''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 58''$ ).

This is a nearly circular camp which is placed at the point of a natural promontory at the junction of two brooks. The face to the south is exceedingly steep, requiring on that side no artificial defences. The slope to the north and north-west is defended by a wall of stones 14 feet wide at one point. At the east and north-east is a bank from 5 to 7 feet high, and width of 25 feet at the level, and there is an exterior ditch which has been utilised as a cartway. The original entrance was on the south-west where there is a steep path to the lower ground. The field to the north-east of the camp, and abutting on its external ditch, is called 'Cae bryn y gaer' (Tithe Schedule, No. 1025), and the one immediately to the south is known as 'Y gaer' (Tithe Schedule, No. 1024).—Visited, 16th October, 1913.

NOTE.—Popular tradition regards this earthwork as the *llys* of Osbwrn Wyddel (see No. 125, note), the name Berllysg being regarded as a reversal of Llys Osber. This is, of course, improbable, but it is quite possible that the camp may have formed part of the land acquired by Osbwrn after his settlement in this district. Berllysg farmhouse dates from the year 1751.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

286. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.). Ded: St. Enddwyn. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

The church is composed of nave, chancel, north and south transepts, south porch and western bell-gable. The chancel is of the same width as the nave. There is a two-light round-headed window on one side of the chancel which is probably of the 16th century; all the other windows are insertions of later periods. The south door is plain pointed. The plain and open roof timbering is of the 16th century,

## Parish of LLANENDDWYN.

at which date it would appear the structure was practically rebuilt. The font may be of the same period. The churchyard is large and nearly square, with two slightly rounded corners. Gravestones dated 1717, 1726, and 1764 were noticed; one brick-built grave having a stone covering-slab, traditionally stated to be that of Colonel John Jones, the regicide, is inscribed on the side 1663 or 1665.—Visited, 13th October, 1913.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

287. *Ffynnon Enddwyn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 35''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 25''$ ).

In a wild mountain *ffridd* nearly two miles distant from the parish church is a well which is reputed to be that of the patron saint of the church, and to it, probably in the 18th century, has been added a bathing chamber. The spring rises in a sunken enclosure, about 3 feet square, composed of rough masonry. From this receptacle the water passes into a larger enclosure, 7 feet square; four steps lead down to the floor level, but the chamber is now practically choked up with rubbish and rank vegetation. Both well and bath are surrounded by a low stone wall, and probably were at one time wholly or in part covered with a wooden roof. The water of the well was formerly held in much repute in ophthalmic cases and also in glandular affections.—Visited, 22nd October, 1913.

288. *Ffynnon Fair* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 7''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 58''$ ).

The site of this spring is now represented by an empty sunken tank, the water having disappeared about eight years ago when a water supply was installed for Llanbedr village. The ground is still damp around the tank which is now enclosed within the grounds of a residence called Llwyn Artro, and thick vegetation renders it almost inaccessible. The spring was much frequented in cases of rheumatism.—Visited, 13th July, 1914.

289. *Ffynnon Badrig* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 2''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 37''$ ).

The spring rises at the foot of the west wall of the *ffridd* in which it is situated. There is no masonry around it, and the overflow spreads over the surface of the field which is covered with reeds and aquatic plants. The water of the well is said to have been efficacious in certain diseases of children.—Visited, 21st May, 1914.

NOTE.—*Sarn Badrig* may conventionally be said to be situated in this parish. It is a geological, not an archaeological, feature.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

290. *Cromlech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 38''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 12''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 707. There is now no trace of a demolished cromlech, although there is little doubt that one existed here at one time, as a neighbouring cottage is named 'Cromlech.'—Visited, 15th October, 1913.

NOTE.—In the *Arch. Journal*, ix, 92, it is stated that at a meeting of the Archaeological Institute "a rubbing was shown exhibiting some linear indentations on the top of one of the supporting-stones on the south side of the most western of the two cromlechs at Coed-ystym-gwern, Llanddwywe, near the road between Barmouth and Harlech," but in the discussion that ensued the general opinion appeared to be that the marks were artificial.

A difficulty arises as to the identification of the particular cromlech above referred to. If stress is laid upon proximity to Coed Ystumgwern, then the above site (No. 290) is probably the place intended: if nearness to Llanddwywe is the chief factor, then one of the cromlechs of Dyffryn (No. 281) must be intended.

291. *Cae'r garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 53''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 34''$  and  $45''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, Nos. 1389 and 1355. There is now no garnedd in this field, once two fields; but in the north-east corner is a *carleg* (a stony patch or collection of stones, natural or artificial), which may account for the disappearance of the cairn. The field is still called 'Cae'r garnedd.'—Visited, 23rd October, 1913.

## Parish of LLANENDDWYN.

292. *Erw'r Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 31 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 46''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 37''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 682. A field appurtenant to the farm of Ynys Gwrtheyrn ; not now known by the above name, but called 'Cae beudy newydd.' It doubtless was part of the demesne of Ystumgwern, the seat of the chief of this district in the Welsh period.—Visited, 17th October, 1913.

293. *Cae pen sarn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 49''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 20''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 674. A field on the south side of a well-paved road which forms the approach to the farm of Ynys Gwrtheyrn.—Visited, 17th October, 1913.

295. *Cae'r Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 28''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 33''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 420. Apparently of no archaeological significance.

296. *Cae'r gromlech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 3''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 55''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 1223. The capstone (13 feet, by 8 feet, by 2 feet 3 inches) of a destroyed cromlech on the farm of Bron y foel ganol has been moved to the side of the field where it rests on the wall.

The narrow meadow immediately to the north of Cae'r gromlech is called 'Buarth garne' in the Tithe Schedule, which is probably intended for "Buarth y garn," a name that would tend to prove that the cromlech was originally covered.—Visited, 22nd October, 1913.

297. *Cae'r gromlech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 57''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 40''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 1153. A cromlech is marked at this spot on the original 1 inch Ordnance map, but there is now no trace of it beyond many large-sized boulders built into the north wall of the field.

298. *Cae garreg lydan* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 54''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 14''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 251. The name may have some archaeological significance. It is part of the holding called Cae'r meddyg—a modern name.

299. *Gwern y Capel* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 25 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 11''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 46''$ ).

In *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1850 (II, i, 323) is the statement that a small pre-Reformation chapel once occupied this site, and indeed had been demolished only three years prior to that date. The building is described as having been "of rectangular form, measuring thirty-eight feet six inches, by fifteen feet nine inches . . . the floor of the chapel was of fine cement, about two or three inches thick. The walls had been plastered, and a piece of window moulding of late date was picked out of the debris." Six years later (*ib.*, 1856, III, ii, 176) it is said that it was then "difficult to trace the form of the structure."

At the present day no indications of the site are apparent, though probably the foundations of the walls, and perhaps the plan of the building, would be recovered by careful excavation.—Visited, 19th May, 1914.

NOTE :—This was doubtless the chapel attached to the manor of Ystumgwern, the seat of the chief of the commote of Ardudwy, the "hall" of which was dismantled about 1307, and its jurisdiction removed to Harlech Castle. The chapel probably went rapidly to ruin, for it is not included in the Bishops' Returns of 1563 (*British Museum : Harleian MS. 1594*) as being in use at that date.

300. *Hendre waelod* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 52''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 27''$ ).

This is one of the ancient houses of the county of Merioneth, being the seat of the family of Phyli of Ardudwy, but the present house which was built in 1818

## Parish of LLANENDDWYN.

contains no noteworthy architectural features. An inscribed slab with the word *Deo* and 1593, and a Welsh englyn, is now used as one of the side posts of the entrance into the garden ; it almost certainly came from the earlier residence.—Visited, 31st August, 1914.

301. *Melin y brenin*, the king's mill (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 32 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 26''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 52''$ ).

This mill, still in use, represents and probably occupies the site of the royal mill mentioned in the Extent of Merioneth of 7 Henry V. It was the mill of the manor of Ystumgwern to which many of the tenants owed suit. The present buildings are comparatively modern, and do not appear to have incorporated any remains of their predecessors.—Visited, 19th May, 1913.

302. *Llam Maria*, 'Maria's Leap' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 28''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 35''$ ).

This is the name of a cottage now ruined and deserted, but which was inhabited within living memory. A late folk-story, based doubtless upon an actual occurrence, has associated the Maria of the story with the Virgin Mary. A stone, supposed to bear the impress of the Virgin's foot, remained until a few years ago, and many remembered to have seen it.—Visited, 22nd October, 1913.

303. *Castellan* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 31''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 41''$ ).

The name of a ruined summer dwelling or hafod on the western slope of Moelfre, which was occupied within living memory. The name is pronounced locally 'Cystullen' or 'Cystyllan,' and has probably never had any connection with a 'castell'; but it may have originated in the castellated shapes taken by the rocks in the neighbourhood.—Visited, 22nd October, 1913.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

304. *Coin—Roman*. A coin of impossible dating was found in the neighbourhood of Dyffryn. It is now in the museum of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

305. *Romano-British Bronze Vessels and Roman Coins*. In or about the year 1848 an important discovery of several Romano-British bronze vessels, one of them containing a number of Roman coins, was made on the farm of Ynys Gwrtheyrn (31 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 50''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 35''$ ). The vessels were exhibited by Mr. W. W. E. Wynne of Peniarth to the members of the Archaeological Institute on 3rd June, 1853, the following account being given of them in the *Journal* of the Institute (x, 256) :—

Three are skillets, precisely resembling in form those found in Arnagill, Yorkshire, and figured in the [Arch.] *Journal*, vol. vi, p. 47. These vessels are usually of graduated size, so as to fit one into another, the handles being perforated, as shown in the representations there given, and thus the entire set might be suspended together upon one hook. Of the three found in Merionethshire the largest measures in diameter, about  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches, the next 5 inches, and the smallest, which is much broken and a considerable portion lost, must have measured about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The handles measure about 4 inches in length. Of the other two vessels, which show some traces of gilding, and are of very thin metal plate, one measured  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches and the other  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, these had no handles, and are of a different form (compare *Ackerman's Archæol. Index*, pl. xv, fig. 4). The other three appear to have been ornamented with narrow bands, stained by some black pigment immediately below the rims. In the second of these, above described, a large number of Roman coins were found : nearly the whole of them were obtained by the agent of the Hon. E. M. Lloyd Mostyn, Lord Lieut. of the county [now Lord Mostyn], and were by him sent to Mostyn. Mr. Wynne had obtained two silver coins from a person at Harlech, which he believes from the statement regarding their discovery, must have formed part of the hoard in question. One of the *gens Nævia* has on the obverse a head of Minerva, or perhaps Rome is here typified ; on the reverse is a *triga*, a part of the legend, which read when perfect, C. N. A. B. A. B. The other coin is of the Porcian family. Obverse, a female head, with the letters ROMA (?) behind it, which may be connected with the epithet VICTRIX on the reverse, which presents a seated figure of Victory . . . By the account given by the county surveyor, Mr. Richard Jones, the deposit was found in a kind of cairn ; the vessels had been placed upon a flat stone, without any appearance of any cistvaen protecting them.

In 1866 one of the bronze "vases" were exhibited by Mr. Wynne to the members of the Cambrian Archæological Association at Machynlleth, together with

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five Roman coins which were said to have been found within it. The coins are stated to have been " denarii of Augustus and Vespasian ; denarius, consular, c. f. ; ditto xix Leg. ; second brass, Agrippa " (*Arch. Camb.*, 1866, III, xii, 545, 547).

[Illustrated, figs. 33, 34.]

NOTE:—In Wales similar objects to the above have been discovered near Abergele, figured in the *Inventory of the Monuments of co. Denbigh*, p. 7, and in the parish of Llansadyrn, illustrated in the *Inventory of the Monuments of co. Carmarthen*, p. 188.

306. *Stone spindle whorl.* One of these objects was picked up in Gwern y capel by Mr. Robert Jones of Ystumgwern, and is still preserved by him. Its diameter is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick ; the hole in the centre is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch across.—Seen, 19th May, 1914.

307. *Quern stone.* The upper stone of a quern is preserved at Cae'r ffynnon. It is 6 inches high and 11 inches in diameter.—Seen, 21st May, 1914.

## Parish of LLANFACHRETH.

## DIVISION Ia (TUMULUS).

308. *Cors y garnedd Tumulus* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 49' 37''$ ).

About 200 yards to the north-east of Cors y garnedd farm house is a mound, about 20 feet in diameter and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, which, about twenty-five years ago, was dug into on one side, and indications of the apparent effects of cremation were met with ; but the work appears to have been dropped, and no definite account of the results is now obtainable.—Visited, 19th September, 1913.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

309. *Camp on Moel Offrwm* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 19''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 51' 15''$ ).

The hill called Moel Offrwm, the summit of which forms the camp under consideration, attains a height of 1,320 feet above sea level, and affords one of the finest views in the county. The camp was formed by surrounding the top of the hill with a strong earthen rampart in the usual manner, but an interesting feature, which possibly betokens a fairly late period in the construction of these simple hill fortresses, is the strengthening of the two entrances by an additional rampart. There is a good spring within the enclosure, and on the lower western side are hollows which may be the sites of hut dwellings.—Visited, 19th September, 1913.

NOTE:—Peniarth MS. 118 in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, a MS. written about the year 1600 by Dr. Sion Dafydd Rhys, has the following:—" In the parish of Llanfachreth is a hill or mountain called Moel Ophrom, where formerly lived Ophrom Gawr, and it is from his name that the hill derived its name, and the hill is not far from Moel Yscydion [see No. 23 note], and it is smaller than Moel Yscydion, and in the same country and the same commote " (*Y Cymmrodor*, 1917, xxvii, 127, translation by Mr. H. Owen).

310. *Y Gaer* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 34 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 47''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 49' 4''$ ).

This camp is placed on a comparatively low but steep and rocky hill the summit of which reaches about 1,000 feet above ordnance datum. The defence consists of lines of outcropping rock, with the intervening gaps partially closed up with walls of rough stone, now in ruins or strewn over the hillside. The enclosure is oval in shape, the long axis being from north-east to south-west, and extending about 130 feet. The only entrance is at the south-east having on one side natural rock, on the other thickened walling. There is no spring within the camp, but a good one at the south-eastern foot of the hill.—Visited, 22nd September, 1913.

## Parish of LLANFACHRETH.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

311. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 N.E.). Ded: St. Machreth. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ystumaner; townships of Nannau uwch afon and is afon.

The present church is modern, having been rebuilt in 1874. The tower is a little older, of about the end of the 18th or commencement of the 19th century. All the fittings of the church are modern. There are memorials to the Nanneys and Vaughans of Nannau and the Morgans of Hengwrt ucha; also to Rice Jones of Blaenau, a Welsh poet, who died 14th February, 1801, aged 87. The churchyard, which is circular, contains four ancient yews; the oldest gravestone noticed bears the date 1740.—Visited, 19th September, 1913.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

312. *Ffordd Groes/wyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 N.E.; 34 N.W.).

This is unquestionably an ancient trackway, now practically unused, having been enclosed in private land. Its enclosure has tended to preserve it at certain points, and a little west of Capel Carmel (34 N.W., lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 41''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 49' 0''$ ) it is quite recognisable as a grass-covered track 9 feet wide, with sunken channels at each side. It is traditionally said to have been constructed to lead from the upper part of the parish to the parish church, and it doubtless served this purpose. But it was more probably the way of communication between the monastery of Cymmer and one of its outlying granges. A little north of Rhydymain ('Rhydymaes' on the original 1 inch Ordnance map) is Pistill Hen Fynachlog. This name (following the analogy of the Hen Fynachlog of Strata Florida abbey) points either to an earlier site of the monastery of Cymmer, or to an important grange of that abbey in the valley of the Wnion. The valley road would doubtless be impassable during a great part of the year, and a route along the higher ground would be necessary.—Partly traversed, 29th September, 1913.

313. *Llwybr Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 34 N.W.).

This is without doubt one of the early lines of communication across the parish, and is probably that part of the road connecting the Roman stations of Cefn Caer (Pennal) and Tomen y Mur (Maentwrog) passing through this parish, though its course cannot be followed throughout. The Llanfachreth 'Llwybr Elen' enters the parish from that of Britdir at Pontbren Titw, or perhaps a little further westward at Pont y fidwl (corrupted into Pont Rhyd-ddwl on the modern Ordnance sheets); in the former case it runs past the village of Rhyd y maen, and the farms of Llwyn, y Cynfel and Braich y fedw, in the latter Capel Carmel, making for Llanfachreth by Ffordd Groeslwyd (No. 312), and eventually for Trawsfynydd, keeping to the east side of the Mawddach, whereas the straight modern Dolgelly—Trawsfynydd road keeps to the west side.—Partly traversed, 25th June, 1914.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

314. *Ffynnon y Capel* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 7''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 51' 8''$ ).

This, which was doubtless the ancient village well, is situated about 300 yards direct west of the parish church. The well enclosure is 19 feet 6 inches square, and has a flight of five steps to the water level. It is now choked with vegetable growth, but the spring must have been credited with medicinal virtues, otherwise so ample a bath would not have been provided. It is said to have been formerly called 'Ffynnon Gwyddno,' but this statement lacks confirmation. The disappearance of the name of the patron saint of the parish, Machreth, may perhaps be accounted for by the acquisition of the church by the Cistercians of Cymmer abbey.—Visited, 19th September, 1913.

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315. *Pistyll hen fynachlog*, 'the spring of the old monastery' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 34 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 46' 10''$ ).

On the farm of Ty cerrig there is a spring of water to which the above name is given in the Tithe Schedule. The spring is now very slight, but the soil about it is made boggy and swampy by the feet of cattle.—Visited, 25th June, 1914.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

316. *Mediæval iron forge* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 33 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 50''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 39''$ ).

On land close to the river Mawddach which bears the name of ' Dol y clochydd,' 'the sexton's meadow,' are the scanty remains of a well-constructed field-furnace for iron working. The furnace is round, with a good external backing of limestone, and an internal lining of clay to which molten iron still clings. About one-half of the circular furnace is visible showing a diameter of 4 feet at the height of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet and of 4 feet 9 inches at 3 feet from the bottom level. The thickness of the backing and lining together is about 18 inches. The part of the forge still existing is about 4 feet in height.—Visited, 20th April, 1914.

NOTE.—There is no doubt that this is one of several forges which are known from the public records to have been constructed and worked in the county of Merioneth both by the crown and the monastery of Cymmer in the 14th and 15th centuries. The present site was probably once monastic ground.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

317. *Castell y graig* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 34 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 25''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 47' 54''$ ).

Of no antiquarian significance.—Visited, 29th September, 1913.

318. *Llwyn y sarn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 34 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 46' 45''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 47' 45''$ ).

The name of a farm-house which takes its name from its proximity to the road to Tomen y mur.—Visited, 29th September, 1913.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

319. *Urns.* In the year 1873 the site adjoining the old Ffrwd chapel near the village of Llanfachreth was being cleared when at least seven urns were discovered some of them containing charred human bones. The urns "had been placed in the ground with their faces downwards without any order, at a depth of about two feet, and a sort of pavement of rough stones had been worked over the place. A little below the bones within the urns some wood charcoal was to be traced, and a piece of yellow metal, but in such a rusty state that neither its form nor its use could be determined" (*Byegones*, 1875, p. 202).

320. *? Bronze Age Cist.* "A few weeks ago Mr. Howel Pugh, of Tyddyn Bach Farm, in the parish of Llanfachreth, near Dolgelly, Merionethshire, discovered a vault containing human remains in a field which he was preparing to plough. The field rises abruptly in the centre, like several other fields in the locality; and on this eminence stood, and had stood, it may almost be said from time immemorial, a huge stone which interfered with ploughing operations. Mr. Pugh, therefore, determined to move it, though the task was one of considerable difficulty. It was at first proposed to resort to blasting, but eventually the stone was dragged away by a team of horses. A deep hole was then found on the spot which had been covered by the stone, and at the bottom of the hole very dark earth mixed with stones. With the aid of a crowbar Mr. Pugh discovered that there was probably a cavity lower down, and a little excavation revealed a stone vault containing human remains, a brass dagger, and a gold ring" (*Arch. Camb.*, 1873, IV, iv, 213). Nothing is now known of these objects.



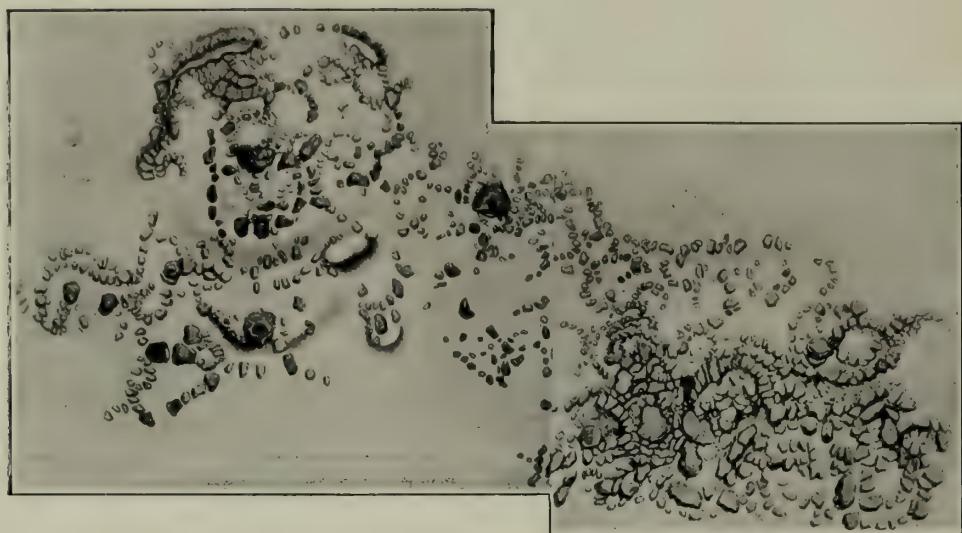


FIG. 101. LLANENDDWYN: BRON Y FOEL (No. 284); hut circles.



FIG. 104. LLANFAIR: GWERN EINION; megalithic remains (No. 321).

## Parish of LLANFAIR.

## DIVISION Ib (CROMLECHAU).

321. *Gwern Einion Cromlech* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 10''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 50''$ ).

This cromlech occupies a site about 300 yards west of the farmstead of Gwern Einion. It adjoins a beast-house on the east, and is in the line of a wall on the west, its long axis being east and west. The capstone, a fine block about 9 feet long by 4 feet broad and about 1 foot thick, rests only upon three supporters and is now tilted from east to west. The tallest supporting stone measures 7 feet 3 inches high. There are other uprights which shut off the chamber, and a large stone 5 feet in length which may also have served the same purpose is now built into the wall close at hand. Some low walling has been put up the better to adapt the structure to its present use as a pigstye. A not very accurate drawing of this cromlech appears in *Arch. Camb.*, 1869, III, xv, 134.—Visited, 28th May, 1914.

Built into the west wall of the field immediately west of Gwern Einion farmhouse is a huge stone,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and about 18 inches thick, which is believed to have been the capstone of a destroyed cromlech, and other large stones in the same wall may have been supporters ; but there are no surface indications that such a structure ever stood in the field.

NOTE :—In the *Antiquary* for 1893 (xxviii, 250) is a posthumous article of Mr. H. H. Lynes who examined several of the prehistoric monuments of west Merioneth in the year 1870. The views held by Mr. Lynes on these structures are not those now generally accepted, but as a different state of things may have existed in that year from what presented themselves to the Inspecting Officer of this Commission in May, 1914, the record of what Mr. Lynes believed he found at this spot is desirable. His opening remarks are as follows :—“At the distance of  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Muriau y Gwyddelod [parish of Llandanwg, No. 160 *ante*] on an upland, with a range of view in all directions, is a group of Celtic remains, occupying a space of 500 feet, with outlying portions in various directions. They consist of mounds and terraces of from 3 feet to 5 feet high, on which are two cromlechi, three lustration basins, two idol-stones, four or five altar-stones, two walled enclosures, and between twenty and thirty semicircles and sections of circles, with a large broken monument, probably an altar. These remains have been the quarry from which three or four houses, outbuildings, and long lines of enclosure walls have been supplied with materials for their construction. The surface of the ground upon which they lie does not appear to have been disturbed since they were placed there ; the intervening space between the northern cromlech and the first curved outlines denoting circles, forms a broad flat terrace of 300 feet by 70 feet. From the edge of this terrace the ground slopes gradually into a wide hollow space of 300 feet by 250 feet, strewed all over with the vestiges of the ever-recurring stone rings, those in the centre of the hollow being much destroyed, while those on the slopes of the terraces are sufficiently distinct to admit of some idea of the general plan being arrived at. Here also we find certain triangular and other shaped stones of a remarkable character, most of them retaining their original positions in the arrangement, while a few have been twisted out of their places. The entire group, excluding the northern cromlech may be divided into three or four sections”—which Mr. Lynes proceeds to describe with great minuteness.

[Illustration, fig. 105.]

## DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

322. *Meini Hirion* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 23''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 4''$ ).

At the above point is a field called ‘Cae meini hirion bach’ which doubtless obtained this name from the presence within it of two or perhaps more standing stones, and in which at the present day there remains a fine monolith nearly 10 feet in length. In the corner of the field another maenhir has been built into the wall. Tithe Schedule, No. 788.—Visited, 13th July, 1914.

323. *Maes yr aelfor maen hir* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 8''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 8''$ ).

On the farm of Maes yr aelfor, which is pronounced locally ‘Maesylor,’ is an upright stone which may have been part of a removed cromlech ; it bears the appearance of having been roughly shaped. No traditions are associated with it.—Visited, 6th July, 1914.

## DIVISION Id (STONE CIRCLES).

324. *Ffridd Llwyn Gurfal Stone Circle* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 56''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 17''$ ).

A small and imperfect stone circle which is probably the outer rim of a cairn that has been removed. The stones are nine in number, five being placed between

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the points of north and east of the circle, and four between south and west. Two of the stones are 2 and 3 feet high, but the greater number do not rise above a foot. The whole work is so fragmentary that further description would be futile.—Visited, 16th July, 1914.

NOTE:—The farm to which this ffridd is now appurtenant is called Ffridd Llwyn Gwerfyl on the original 1 inch map.

325. *Muriau Gwyddelod* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 0''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 58''$ ).

Just within the boundary of the parish, about 500 yards direct east of the site also called on the Ordnance sheet "Muriau Gwyddelod" (see No. 160), and on the upland farm of Brwyn Llynau, is a group of interesting remains consisting of a roughly circular enclosure of about 130 feet diameter, having two smaller enclosures within the larger, and each of these latter circles containing the remains of four or five cairns or hut dwellings. Close by is a portion of what was probably another large circle, but this has been cut through and effectually destroyed by a modern road. One of the small enclosures within the circle placed at the south-eastern end of the principal enclosure is rectangular.—Visited, 28th August, 1914.

[Illustration, fig. 105.]

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

326. *Bryny gaer* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 30''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 40''$ ).

Formed by the encircling of a rocky knoll at the back of Ffridd Llwyn Gurfal farm-house is an enclosure 40 yards by 25; it exhibits no military feature, and was probably an early, perhaps prehistoric, cattle-fold. The surrounding bank has disappeared in places, but at the southern end is still about 5 feet above the interior level; it has probably been much carted away. Tithe Schedule, No. 420.

The adjoining enclosure northward is called 'Bach Garnedd,' but the heaps of stones which appear upon it do not seem to be sepulchral. Still further northward on the farm of Rhyd yr eirin ('Rhyd yr erin' on the original 1 inch map) is a field named 'Cromlechydd' which exhibits no signs of an ancient remain. Tithe Schedule, No. 430.—Visited, 16th July, 1914.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

327. *Gerddi Bluog* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 26''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 4''$ ).

This strong and well-built house is traditionally stated to be the birthplace of Edmund Prys, archdeacon of Merioneth, and author of the Welsh version of the Psalms; but it is probable that the oldest portion of the present residence is at least a century later than the date of birth (A.D. 1541) of the celebrated archdeacon. The house is plainly but solidly built, and much of the woodwork is of oak. In the room above the kitchen between the chimney breast and two external walls is a small closet having a fixed and a closed window, which is said to have been Edmund Prys's study; and in one of the bedrooms is a bedstead on one of the posts of which is inscribed "E. P. 1592."—Visited, 16th July, 1914.

Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 587.

328. *Cwm Bychan* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 48''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 34''$ ).

This is the ancestral residence of the Lloyds of Cwm Bychan. The structure is of the early 17th century, but the interior arrangements have been modernised, and all features of interest obliterated.—Visited, 27th August, 1914.

NOTE.—Pennant's account of his visit to the house of Cwm Bychan is of much interest. [Tours, ii, 266-270.]

## Parish of LLANFAIR.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

329. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 25 N.E.); Ded: St. Mary. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

The church is a long parallelogram, with vestry at the east end of the north aisle, west door and bell gable. The chancel is separated from the nave by a plain openwork screen of 16th century date. There is an ogee-headed window on the south side of the chancel which is probably of the 15th century, and a slit above the west door may be still earlier. The other windows are narrow and pointed, but they have been much altered. The east window is Perpendicular, as is also the timbered roof, making it plain that the church was thoroughly renewed during that period. A small piscina is in the south wall of the chancel, and there is a round-headed stoup near the west door. The font is a plain octagon of the 16th century. In the north wall is a restored slate slab commemorating a long succession of Owens of Crafnant from 1520. The churchyard has been enlarged, but portions of the old wall remain showing that the enclosure was either circular or oval in shape; it contains a rude dial, the plate bearing no date. The oldest tombstone noticed was of the year 1700.—Visited, 10th July, 1914.

Glynne, "Notes," *Arch. Camb.*, 1901, vi, i, 137.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

330. *Old Trackway* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W., 19 S.W.).

What is most probably a very early trackway is met with about lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 20''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 12''$ . It may have started a little south of this point, and been connected with the remains known as "Muriau Gwyddelod" (No. 325). It proceeds in a north-easterly direction over high-lying and mostly unenclosed land, part of which is called Moel y Seniwl. (Moel y Sensigl, modern Ordnance maps). It leaves this parish for that of Llandanwg at lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 48''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 30''$  (19 S.W.). It is called 'Y Fonlieu hir' on the Ordnance sheet, but this name does not appear to be generally known, and its meaning is not clear. Two stones standing on its course were evidently intended to serve the purpose of guide stones.—Traversed, 7th July, 1914.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

331. *Ffynnon Fair* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 22''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 34''$ ).

This well is situated nearly at the top of a hill east of the parish church, and just below Uwchllan farm. The water rises in a sunken reservoir 27 inches by 21 inches, but the well is now neglected and overgrown with vegetation.—Visited, 28th August, 1914.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

332. ? *Shell Mounds*. In the meadow called Y wern (25 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 19''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 7' 13''$ ), an ancient sea beach, are from fifteen to twenty mounds showing an outer low bank, an inner shallow depression, and an innermost low elevation. They average about 20 feet in diameter and 15 feet in height. This meadow is regularly mown so that most of the mounds have been disturbed, but no objects of apparently artificial construction have been found within or about them.

A number of similar mounds are to be found in a meadow about 300 yards south of the former.—Visited, 2nd September, 1914.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

333. *Pen Castell ucha and issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 25 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 26''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 51''$ ).

These are two adjoining fields, and, with a third called "Carneddi" immediately to the north of the former, doubtless once formed a single area where there are at

## Parish of LLANFAIR.

present no indications of archæological remains, though it was stated that a mound had quite recently been cleared away from the last-named, and traces of it can still be seen in the western part of the field. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 9-11.—Visited, 10th July, 1914.

334. *Cae'r garn issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 39''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 30''$ ).

This is a field on the small farm of Tyddyn du. Tithe Schedule, No. 203. There is apparent no other "caer" than a huge mass of rock, but as the adjoining field to the north is called "Cyfar y garn" it is fairly certain that a cairn once stood hereabout.—Visited, 13th July, 1914.

335. *Cae'r garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 29''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 6''$ ).

A field on the farm of Hen Gaeau—a suggestive name—which at the date of the visit had a crop of growing corn. The cairn after which the field is named is probably represented by a big heap of stones on the south side of the field, partly destroyed and partly enlarged by the addition of gathered stones. Tithe Schedule, No. 822.—Visited, 13th July, 1913.

336. *Y Gaer* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 23''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 0''$ ).

This is the name of a field on the farm of Gerddi Bluog ; at present it shows no sign of an antiquity. It is about half a mile from the hill-fort of Bryn y Gaer (No. 326), and may have had some connection therewith.—Visited, 16th July, 1914.

337. *Dinas Porchellyn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 26 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 41''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 7''$ ).

The farmhouse which has derived its name from this site is marked on the 6 inch Ordnance sheet only as "Dinas." It is mentioned by Pennant as follows :—

From Corsygedol I pursued my journey towards Harlech ; but on the road was tempted by my constant fellow-traveller, the reverend John Lloyd, to make a small deviation to visit a near relation of his who lived a few miles to our right in his antient territories of Cwm Bychan. We approached it through Glyn Artro, a little valley, watered by a river of the same name, and prettily wooded. The view upward was extremely picturesque, of a conic rock, skirted by a sweet grove ; and beyond soared the naked mountains which bounded the object of our ride. After passing through the wood and ascending Dinas Porchellyn we had before us a wild horizon of rocks and rocky mountains.

A plan of the summit of the hill was made by the late Mr. H. H. Lynes of which we give a reproduction. Mr. Lynes without doubt, regarded it as a hill fort of ordinary type, but owing to the unfortunate dropping out of its distinctive title and the misleading reference of Mr. Lynes to "Glyn Artro" from which it is distant about half-a-mile, the Inspecting Officer of the Commission failed to locate the site. It has been discovered and visited by Captain Hewins (R. W. F.), who reports that "there is evidence of many stones but none which suggest the remains of walls, though the intense overgrowth might account for this, and also the fact that two modern walls run close under the summit, south and east, which might be composed of stones taken from the old remains. Most of the stones visible on the site suggest rather the natural fragments of rock, similar to those which lie scattered over the sides of the hill. In the centre is a stone 7 feet high, occupying an isolated and conspicuous position. This stone points in a direction slightly west of north, corresponding in this respect and in its general position with a stone marked in the plan of the site. The hill holds a commanding position over the whole valley, with unbroken observation over a wide area. There is no other likely or probable site in the Dinas Porchellyn district." On the south side of a little tributary of the Artro, exactly opposite the Dinas, is a farm which bears the interesting name of Blaiddbwll—bear's hole.—Visited, 3rd November, 1920.

[Illustrated, fig. 65A.]

338. *Maen Eglwys* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 39''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 46''$ ).

A huge stone placed on the boundary line of this parish and that of Llandanwg, which probably received its name from some ceremony that took place at or upon it on the occasion of beating the parish bounds.—Visited, 7th July, 1914.

## Parish of LLANFAIR.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

339. *Bronze Palstave.* Nothing is known of the provenance of this object. It is now in the British Museum.

[Illustrated, fig. 151(7).]

340. *Bronze Spear head.* At the annual meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association at Machynlleth in the year 1866 a bronze spear head, which was said to have been discovered at Maes y Velvor (Maes yr aelfor on Ordnance sheet) near Harlech, was exhibited by Dr. Griffith Griffiths. Nothing is now known of this implement.

341. *Bronze Celt.* On the same occasion a bronze celt said to have been found at Cilbronydd (Cil y bronrhudd on the Ordnance sheet) was exhibited by the same gentleman. Nothing further is known of its history. It is possible that this object may be identical with that of the previous entry.

342. *Bronze Shield.* See Llandanwg, No. 171 C.

## Parish of LLANFIHANGEL Y PENNANT.

## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

343. *Ty'n y fach Cairn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 39' 36''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 58''$ ).

On 'Maes Issa,' 'the lower field,' appurtenant to the farm of Tyn y fach, and near the parish church, are the remains of an opened and scattered cairn that was about 42 feet in diameter. Four yards to the west is an upright monolith standing about 5 feet high, which was probably connected with the dispersed cairn, or formed part of a second.—Visited, 27th July, 1914.

Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 275.

## DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

344. *Cae'r berllan maenhir* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 39' 10''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 40''$ ).

A fine maenhir, 6 feet in height, now acting as a gatepost on the farm of Cae'r berllan, that stood formerly on a piece of open ground known as 'Clwt y Maenhir.'—Visited, 15th July, 1914.

Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 276.

345. *Ffridd Gwastadfryn maenhir* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 42 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 40' 11''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 5''$ ).

On a slope of Ffridd Gwastadfryn, at the spot indicated above, is a standing stone, in shape like an equal-armed cross, but showing no sign of man's handiwork. It is 5 feet 6 inches high, 5 feet 4 inches broad across the arms, 3 feet 4 inches broad at the base and 3 feet at the top, and about 3 feet thick. It is difficult to discover among the huge masses of natural rock around.—Visited, 27th July, 1914.

Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 275.

346. *Dol y maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 39' 17''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 55''$ ).

This is the name of a farm upon which stands a fine boulder.

347. *Maes y llan maen hir* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 39' 45''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 15''$ ).

A stone standing about 3 feet 6 inches high. Near it is a cairn which may be wholly the result of field clearings.

## Parish of LLANFIHANGEL Y PENNANT.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

348. *Camp on Craig Aderyn, 'The Bird Rock'* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 31''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 15''$ ).

High up on Craig Aderyn, about 150 feet below its northern summit, is a fairly level area sloping from north to south, which is occupied by a camp unmarked on the Ordnance sheet. This area has a precipitous slope on its northern side in the direction of the river Dysynni, so that no protective works were needed on that side ; and for the same reason there was no call for artificial defences on the west where the crag rises with almost equal abruptness. On the east and south respectively are strong stone walls from 3 to 4 feet high and 12 to 14 feet thick at the base. The area thus defined by natural as well as artificial limits is in shape roughly a rectangular parallelogram, measuring about 70 yards from north to south and 46 yards from east to west, and containing about three-quarters of an acre of surface. The entrance to this enclosure is at the south-east angle, the eastern wall sweeping round in a quadrant to meet the south wall, and both walls having a slight curve inwards. In this curve on the eastern side are two circular depressions, either for the shelter of the defenders or for guard huts, and immediately in the rear of these depressions is a spring of water. The slope to the south falls sharply away for a distance of about 40 feet when it broadens out to a level space of some 60 feet and extends not only along the full length of the wall above, but continues beyond it and turns up northwards until it meets the towering crags that shut in the level space of this side. This lower level or terrace is surrounded by a strong wall similar in character to that which forms the southern boundary of the upper plateau, the wall being continued in a sweeping curve at its western angle and carried northwards up to the point where the crag forms the boundary. The inner enclosure is divided into two almost equal parts by a line of natural boulders.—Visited, 18th June, 1914.

NOTE:—Mr. W. Wynne Foulkes found Romano-British pottery here (see p. 95, above).

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—MEDIEVAL CASTLES).

349. *Castell y Berè* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 39' 29''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 10''$ ).

The ruins of this castle occupy the narrow summit of a solitary hill that commands several small valleys in the difficult mountainous country to the south of the Cader Idris group. The hill is densely clothed with trees, and the site is so overgrown with vegetation that it is hardly possible to discern the few architectural remains that exist. So far as can be made out with the aid of a ground plan prepared by the late Mr. W. W. E. Wynne of Peniarth, the owner of the site at that time, who conducted some exploratory work on the ruins in the year 1860, and whose account (with illustrations) is published in *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1861 (III, vii, 105), the defensive parts of the castle appear to have been placed along the northern side

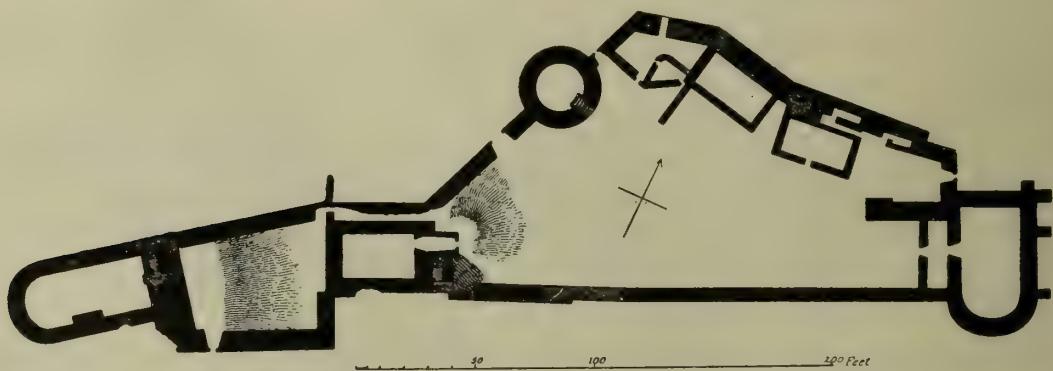


Fig. 106.

of the hill, where the descent to the plain below was so abrupt as to practically render it impregnable from that quarter. The southern and less precipitous side of the hill was protected by a curtain wall which has almost entirely disappeared ; and between this wall on the south, and the buildings of the castle on the north side ran a long and narrow courtyard. The residential portions were also on the south side, being carried from the end of the curtain wall to the farthest point of the rocky promontory,





FIG. 107. LLANFIHANGEL Y PENNANT: CASTELL Y BERÈ (No. 349); carved stones at Peniarth.

## Parish of LLANFIHANGEL Y PENNANT.

and terminating in a circular-ended apartment, 60 feet by 21 feet, which was probably the great hall. A pathway led down the face of the rock to an entrance, probably a postern, that opened out on the level ground, but these details are highly conjectural. The level of the hill rises gradually from east to west, and at the east end was placed the entrance where a winding footpath led up to the gateway. The shapes of one or two towers are discernible along the northern line of the structure, but the narrowing of the available space did not permit of the buildings on this side being continued in line with the residential part of the castle. There are at present too few indications to admit of much in the way of description, though doubtless a thorough and careful clearance of the site would contribute valuable information upon this interesting monument. The quality of the masonry varies, as though the castle had been built at different periods, or had been restored and perhaps enlarged in the course of its existence, but there is not a detail now visible to give a hint of the date of its construction apart from the fragments discovered by Mr. Wynne during the exploration above referred to, which are now at Peniarth, and point to an edifice erected about the time when the Early English style was at its zenith.—Visited, 7th May, 1914.

NOTE.—Beyond the indications of the period when the Castle of Berè was constructed which are afforded by the style of the few fragments of the stonework at Peniarth already alluded to, no reference to its foundation is to be gathered from chronicle or record. The plan of the castle was, of course, accommodated to the nature of the site, and this is of the same character as the site of Montgomery castle. There the buildings are arranged in a long line on the summit of a narrow long-drawn-out hill; a site which did not admit of a quadrangular or polygonal plan. Montgomery castle was erected about the year 1250, and the date of Castell y Berè is fixed by the testimony of the architectural fragments to about the period of 1225–50. Seeing that at this time, which was that of the declining years of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, there was no chief of sufficient power and resource to raise so fine a structure in the wilds of South Merioneth as Castell y Berè, it may be plausibly suggested that the builder of Montgomery castle was also the builder of Castell y Berè. It is true that the beautiful carved work of the latter is not found in the former, for the poor remains at Montgomery are utterly destitute of ornamental details, and there has been no enlightened and friendly custodian to preserve such traces whilst they were in existence. But, bearing in mind the artistic predilections of Henry III., and the absence of any Welsh chief to whose patronage the exquisite work of Castell y Berè can be attributed, it is at least possible that this may have been built by the order of that king. Furthermore, it is on record that Edward the First visited Castell y Berè in the year following the establishment of the English administration over Gwynedd. He granted a charter to Castell y Berè, by which is to be understood an undefined district around the castle; and there is an evident intention on the part of the king to increase the dignity and standing of the castle, when there does not appear to have existed any military or political reason for such favour. It may be conjectured that Edward was actuated by respect for his father's work.

[Illustrated, fig. 107.]

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

350. *Cae'r berllan* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 39' 5''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 40''$ ).

A carved stone above the principal doorway of this house states it to have been erected in the year 1590; it was, however, rebuilt in good style about a century later, and it has been modernised in detail at several subsequent periods. In the stone slab forming the sill of one of the windows of the kitchen are two globular openings communicating with small rectangular cavities beneath, which were probably used for the distillation of the cordials and simples so much in vogue during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The garden with its excellent wall remains much as it must have looked originally.—Visited, 15th June, 1914.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

351. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.E.). Ded: St. Michael. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ystumaner; townships of Llan, Llanllwydan, Maes Trefnant.

This church is composed of nave and chancel with no structural distinction between them, north transept, south porch and western bell-gable. The screen is of late date, and poor in style, having plain panels below and turned baluster shafts above. The disproportionately large transept has an original late Perpendicular window, but its opening to the church is square in shape, and of late date. The windows are all modernised, and the roof timbers are poor. The splay of a window has been deepened on construction of the north transept to afford increased light to the pulpit; this is called locally "the lepers' window," but without reason. There

## Parish of LLANFIHANGEL Y PENNANT.

are slight evidences of the rebuilding of about 9 feet of the western end of the chancel. The bowl of the font is oblong in shape, and has a plain scalloped ornament which covers the surface almost entirely; it is probably of the twelfth century. The pillar is circular. The base is also oblong, and has early carving on its upper edge. The height of the font is not quite 3 feet. The oldest tombstone that was noticed is dated 1663. The dial post is square, with chamfered edges, and the dial plate is marked 1786. There is a lych-gate at the east side of the enclosure.—Visited, 7th May, 1914.

NOTE.—There are no present indications that Llanfihangel y Pennant church ever possessed a small architecturally-independent chantry chapel, but it had a chantry altar with its regularly appointed chaplain. The Pub. Record Office *Chancery Certificates* (No. 76) contain the following entry :—

No. 23. Saint Michael.

A stipendiary called Our Lady Priest upon the increase of a stock of cattle, now prized at  
 £7 14s. 8d. ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 30s.  
 Sir John ap Meredith ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 30s.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

352. *Llwybr Cadfan* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E. ; 42 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 37''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 47''$ — $57' 18''$ ).

This is a clearly marked pathway which can be followed for what seems to be the entire length of its course, but its explanation and purpose are by means easy to set forth. It appears to start at Towyn, St. Cadfan's parish, and to enter the parish of Llanfihangel at the point indicated above, a little beyond Erw Benlas, where it begins the ascent of Mynydd Maes Pentre. Here its artificial character is evident, it having been formed into a level path 3 feet broad by the throwing up of the rubble of earth and stones from its upper side. There is thus a depression or ditch on one side, and in places on both sides; though when crossing Pen Eisteddfa it is no more than a level track in the grass about 4 feet in width. It passes along the east slope of Ceunant goch; in this district it is still used by miners, and its name is well known. Its course is direct to Abergynolwyn, but beyond this place it seems to die away as an ancient track, though the modern road is continued to Dolgelly. An intelligent man, aged 84, who has lived at Bryn Eglwys over half a century, stated that according to tradition St. Cadfan used to pass Bryn Eglwys on his way to Cwm Cadian, though there was no trace of this path on the Bryn Eglwys side of Y Foel, and this line of route does not easily conform to the course already indicated. The late Mr. R. P. Morris (*Cantref Meirionydd*, 540) has endeavoured to trace Llwybr Cadfan to Llan-gadfan in Montgomeryshire, but his efforts are not conclusive.—Visited, 24th July, 1914.

DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

353. *Eglwys Mihangel, St. Michael's Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 42 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 39' 45''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 57' 13''$ ).

On the upper slopes of Ffridd Ty'n y fach and about half a mile from the parish church are the foundations of a building said to be those of Eglwys Mihangel. The small rectangular enclosure measures 24 feet by 16 feet 3 inches, and lies due east and west. The eastern wall is standing about 3 feet high and 3 feet thick ; it is composed of the slatey stone of the neighbourhood, roughly dressed but unmortared, and has earth banked up against it. The rest of the walling has completely disappeared. About 200 yards to the north-west is a sunken enclosure formed of rough masonry about 6 feet by 3 feet by 2 feet deep which is still known as the Parson's Well, and was doubtless once associated with the chapel of St. Michael. It is now dry.

NOTE.—There can be little doubt that the above is the site of the first church of the parish, which probably gave way to the present church soon after the construction of Castell y Bere. Careful excavation would probably reveal the ground plan of the little edifice.

354. *Bryn Eglwys* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 42 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 47''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 58''$ ).

Near to the house called Bryn Eglwys, and a little west of it, stood about fifty-five years ago a small enclosure, reported to be an ancient burial ground, and connected, rightly or wrongly, with St. Cadfan. A former manager of the Bryn

## Parish of LLANFIHANGEL Y PENNANT.

Eglwys quarry having to drive a shaft directly through this enclosure, removed the stones that were around and within it, setting them up again about 40 yards to the west from the original site, and planting a few trees within the enclosure thus formed. An old man, Mr. Rees Watkins, aged 84, who came to the quarry about a year after the change was made, and has remained there ever since, gave the inspecting officer this interesting information. The enclosure is still traceable by means of the few fir trees that survive, but the surrounding wall, which was circular, has been overthrown.—Visited, 25th July, 1914.

355. *Camp in Dysefin Wood* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E.).

This could not be located; it is probably not an ancient monument.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

356. *Urns.*

Mr. R. P. Morris (*Cantref Meirionydd*, 249, 250) records the discovery of several urns in this parish (i) At Abergynolwyn, in 1877, a cistfaen was met with measuring 3 feet 5 inches by 1 foot 3 inches by 1 foot 3 inches deep, which held two urns. One urn contained some ash, and had been covered with a tile; the other was empty. Both urns were destroyed.

(ii) In the year 1883, when the foundations of the Board School in the hamlet of Abergynolwyn were laid, two urns were discovered containing ashes and burnt bones. Both were inverted, and one is said to have been "ornamented." They fell to pieces on exposure.

(iii) Another urn was found just outside the school foundations. This also contained ashes and burnt bones, but is said to have been unornamented. It dropped to pieces like the previous find.

(iv) On the 14th September, 1920, an urn was discovered in a cutting that had been made for a new road at Cae'r berllan (see No. 350). The urn, which was much broken, would appear to have been of considerable size as the diameter of the mouth is given as 8 inches. The fragments are preserved at the Towyn County School.

## Parish of LLANFOR.\*

## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

357. *Garnedd wen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 13 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 23''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 41' 8''$ ).

On the spot indicated in the valley of the Treweryn are the remains of what appears to have been a fine carnedd of which a considerable portion still exists. It was opened about the year 1860, and a cist was found which was said to contain ashes and a rusted iron [?] implement which soon fell to pieces. The cist was removed, all but the bottom flagstone to the farm of Coed y mynach, and utilised to form a water trough which function it still fulfils.—Visited, 3rd July, 1913.

\* This parish extends for nearly 15 miles from north to south. The correct name of the parish is appropriately enough 'Llan fawr,' 'the big parish,' but from the present form of 'Llan for' has been created a Saint Mor to whom the church is sometimes said to be dedicated. The name appears as early as 1285, when an inquisition was held at "Llanwaur" before John de Havering, at which the following interesting and important historical evidence was given:—Llewellyn ap Bereward [Iorwerth] and David his son, princes of Wales, were wont to have pture for 300 men once a year when they came to hunt in the commote of Pentlyn, viz., bread, butter, fish, and cheese, in the house of the abbot and convent of Basingwerck; they took nothing, however, in years when they did not come to hunt. Llewellyn son of Griffith, prince, long since deceased, claimed such pture as his right, and took it once a year for 500 men, with two yearling foals (*cum duobus pullis superannatis*), which previous princes of Wales never took; he also took money for the said pture when he did not come (P.R.O.: *Chancery Inq. Misc.*, File 44(24)).

Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt (d. 1666) gives the spelling of the parish as 'Llanfawr.' Speed in his map (A.D. 1610) erroneously styles it 'Llan Fair,' 'St. Mary's parish.'

## Parish of LLANFOR.

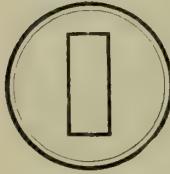
358. *Dol y Garnedd lwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 13 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 53''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 40' 54''$ ).

Adjoining the farm of Coed y Mynach mentioned in the previous article, and in a meadow that slopes to the bank of the Tryweryn is a mound that has been almost entirely obliterated, though its contents lie scattered around, and that would probably have gone unnoticed but for the name in the Tithe Schedule where it is No. 3022.—Visited, 30th May, 1913.

359. *Garnedd Wen* (6 in. Ord. sheet, Mer. 23 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 7''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 31' 52''$ ).

In a small wood on a slope that rises from the brook Hirnant, and on the farm of Maes hir, are the remains of a carnedd which on the original 1 inch Ordnance map is called 'Carnedd Wen,' but is omitted altogether from the modern sheet. The upper part of the cairn has been removed, but the base which remains measures about 45 feet in diameter. There are indications that a cist occupied the centre of the mound, the cist being aligned to north and south.—Visited, 3rd October, 1913.

NOTE.—This carnedd appears to have been one of the finest of its kind in the district. The prospect from the higher ground a little beyond the cairn is of the most romantic character, and an ancient road called Bwlch y feni runs past the ruined mound. Happily there has been preserved in the Manuscript Department of the British Museum (*Stowe Collection*, 753, fo. 57), a letter, dated 27th June, 1745, from the Rev. George Griffiths, then rector of Bala, to the Rev. Charles Lyttelton, dean of Exeter and bishop of Carlisle, and in 1765 president of the Society of Antiquaries of London, which goes far to explain the destruction of this monument. Mr. Griffiths writes:—"Upon a hill called Berwyn, about 3 miles from Bala, I found a vast heap of stones, about seventy waggon loads, or more, as near as I could guess. In the center of this I found a large stone chest about

  
a yard and three-quarters long, but probably had been longer, for both ends were put out of their proper places. This is called Carnedd Wen. Upon this hill, God willing, I intend to make further searches as soon as I have opportunity, for I am informed some antiquities are to be met with there. A gentleman who is an acquaintance of mine yt often walks the hills to persue his sport etc., informed me that sometime ago being by this Carnedd Wen his curiosity lead him, not acquainted at all with antiquities, to see what was in the place; accordingly found out this kistvaen, but cover'd with stones; took off the stones and searched, found there a bone or two, resembled yt of humane as he thought: this he discover'd to me sometime after I found it my self." (See *Catalogue of MSS. relating to Wales in the British Museum*, pt. iv, No. 1686d).

360. *Garnedd issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 24''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 33' 45''$ ).

The field thus styled contains near its western edge a ruined carnedd or cromlech on which vegetation has grown luxuriantly. At the western end of the mound is a large stone, 6 feet by 3 feet, which was doubtless part of the structure. It gives its name to the farm-house called 'Y Garnedd,' about 500 yards west of it. Tithe Schedule, No. 1919.—Visited, 19th May, 1913.

361. *Cistfaen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 5''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 31' 25''$ ).

Towards the north-west of a field still called 'Y Cistfaen' on the farm of Pen y cefn are five large stones which almost certainly represent the supporters of a cistfaen. Two of the stones are 15 feet in height; one is prostrate. The stones still standing should receive early attention, and the whole should be protected. They are not marked on the modern Ordnance sheet.—Visited, 16th May, 1913.

362. *Y Garn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 57''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 29' 17''$ ).

This is a mound of stones standing about 200 yards from the boundary line between the parishes of Llanfor and Llandderfel, and though unmistakably a cairn, is perhaps not sepulchral nor commemorative, but a boundary mound or guiding cairn to the trackway of Trum y sarn.—Visited, 25th July, 1913.

## DIVISION Ib (CROMLECHAU).

362A. *Garreg lwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 34' 48''$ ).

In a field of this name (Tithe Schedule, No. 2140) belonging to the farm of the Y Gloig is a big boulder, 22 feet long, now gradually disappearing beneath the soil. It has every appearance of having been the capstone of a cromlech.—Visited, 30th May, 1913.



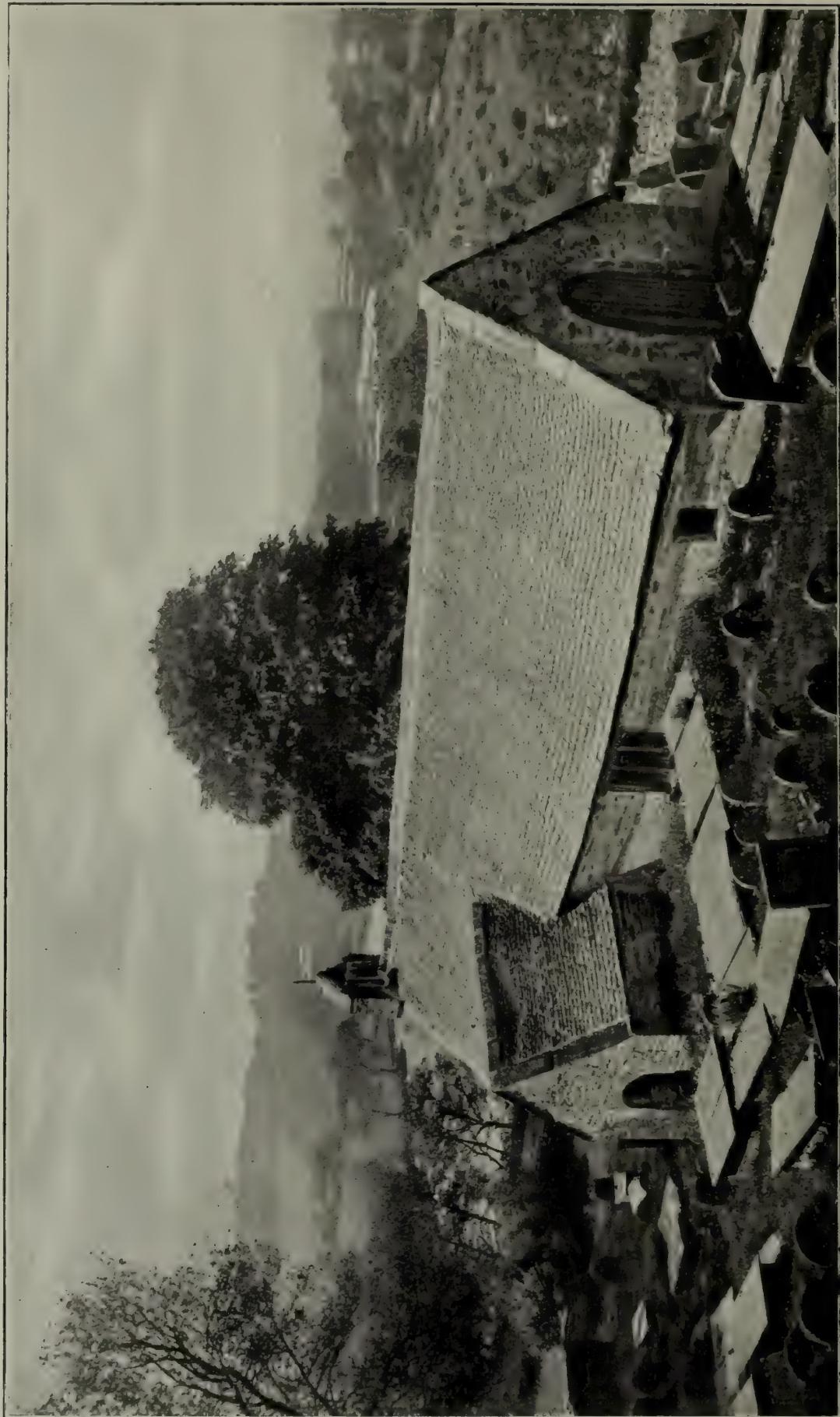


FIG. 112. LIANGAR: THE OLD PARISH CHURCH (No. 400).

## Parish of LLANFOR.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION D (CASTLE MOUNTS WITHOUT ENCLOSURES).

363. *Tomen gastell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 19''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 33' 41''$ ).

This is a small mound placed in the fork formed by the junction of a small stream with the river Meloch, on the north side of the modern high road between Bala and Corwen. It stands from 12 to 15 feet high, and is about 60 feet in diameter at the top. There are no signs of an attached court or ditch, but it has so obviously suffered mutilation that these features may have been swept away. Pont Tomen gastell has replaced a bridge which in Edward Lhuyd's time (c. 1700) was called 'Pont rhyd y Ffraink,' a name which attests the character and era of the adjoining mound.—Visited, 16th May, 1913.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

364. *Plas Rhiwedog* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 2''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 33' 52''$ ).

This is a small house of T shape, built in the year 1664, enclosed within a quadrangle which possesses a gatehouse. The house has a good oak staircase with turned balusters, but it has been somewhat modernised.

The farm buildings are near, though distinct from, the mansion. There is a fine stone barn and beast-house under one roof, perhaps earlier by half a century than the house.—Visited, 19th May, 1913.

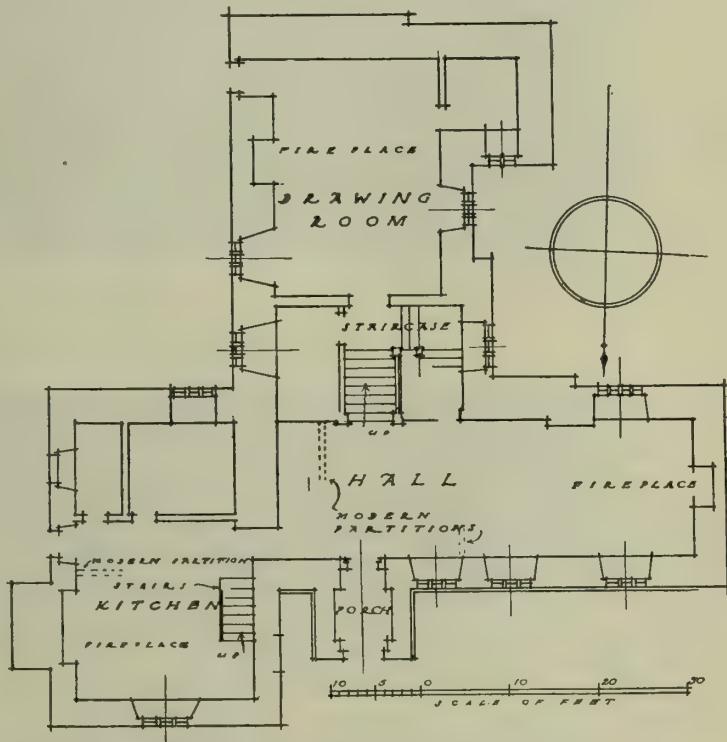


Fig. 108.

365. *Llathgwm* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 19''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 36' 22''$ ).

A good specimen of a farm-house of the early 17th century, to which an addition has been made at a later date. The farm buildings are of the combined style, in the manner of those at Rhiwedog.—Visited, 3rd October, 1913.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

366. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.E.). Ded: St. Deiniol.\* Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural deanery of Penllyn; townships of Ciltalgarth, Garn, Llan, Nant Lleidiog, Penmaen, Rhiwedog uwch and is afon,† Ucheldre.

This church, a simple parallelogram with western tower, was entirely rebuilt on the old foundations in 1874-5, except the lower part of the tower. The nave and

\* Lhuyd gives this dedication, and states that the parish wakes were held on St. Daniel's Day.

† The 'afon' indicated by these names is the Llafar which rises in the Berwyn range, and falls into the Dee a little above Aber Meloch.

**Parish of LLANFOR.**

chancel are distinguished by a modern screen with which portions of 16th century woodwork have been incorporated. The font is new, but the earlier font-bowl, a plain octagon with circular basin, is in the rectory garden. In the churchyard is a sun-dial, the shaft of which is dated 1747; the base of the dial is probably that of the churchyard cross. The oldest tombstone noticed is of the year 1646.—Visited, 15th May, 1913.

Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph* (ed. 1912), ii, 107; *Rulace, Ruedok, and the Valley of the Welsh Dee* (Lloyd Price).

[Illustrated, fig. 37.]

*Inscribed Stone.* In the western wall of the interior of the church tower

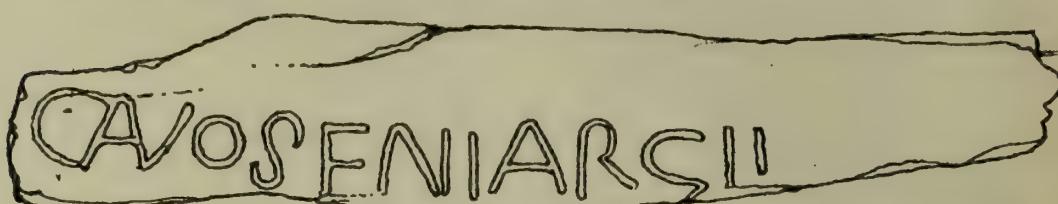


Fig. 110A.

has been placed a stone bearing the inscription in debased Roman characters  
CAVOSENIARGLI OR CAVOSENIARGII.

Westwood, *Lapid. Walliae*, 163, pl. lxxiv, fig. 7; Hübner, *Inscr. Brit. Christ.*, No. 133; *Arch. Camb.*, 1919, VI, xix, 567.

[Illustrated, fig. 110.]

#### DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

367. *Pabell Llywarch Hen, the Tabernacle of Llywarch the aged* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 7''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 34' 45''$ ).

The monument that now goes by the name of Pabell Llywarch Hen is a group of five tall stone pillars standing in the *cadlas* or yard of the farm of Pen issa'r llan, and contiguous to the parish churchyard. They are evidently not in their original position, and it is unfortunate that no reference to their former situation has been made by earlier writers, nor does any tradition exist of the occasion of their removal or the place whence they were brought to their present site. It had taken place before the year 1700, for Edward Lhuyd writing about that date mentions the stones as being "yn awr yn gadles," which may be translated "now in the stackyard." Lewis (*Top. Dict. Wales*) mentions that the "Pabell is marked out by a circle of stones," which cannot have reference to the present arrangement of the stones now in the farmyard.

Within the meadow behind the farmhouse of Pen ucha'r llan, on the rising ground above the parish church, and about 140 yards north of it, lies a circular earthwork almost entirely surrounded by a bank of from 9 to 12 feet high. Outside the bank is a ditch which doubtless encircled the whole enclosure but is now obliterated on the south. The interior has been hollowed out, but whether this was occasioned by the removal of any feature such as a mound or stone structure it is altogether impossible to decide.—Visited, 15th May, 1913.

#### DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

368. *Sarn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 23 S.W.).

This trackway probably started from Bala, passed the ancient house of Rhiwedog, and close to Garnedd wen (No. 359), taking a south-easterly course from Maes hir, and continuing to the boundary of the parish of Llangynog, in co. Montgomery. The portions of it that were examined were found to be in good condition, in places 4 feet wide, and generally with a bank on one side; here and there it ran on the face of the rock which had been roughly levelled, but for the most part its course was over dry moorland.—Traversed, 25th July, 1913.

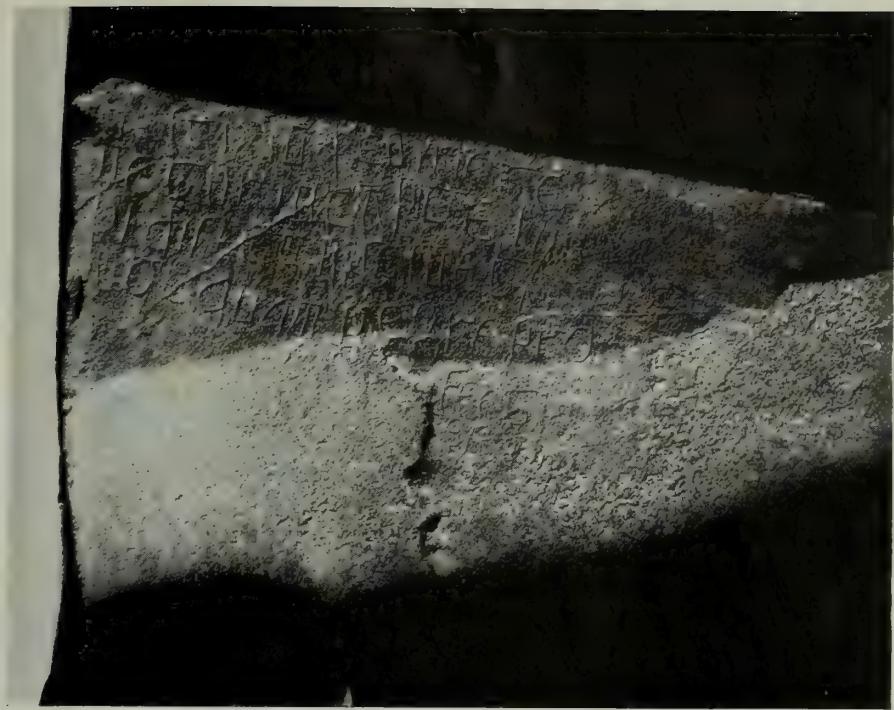


FIG. 109. LLANELLYD: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 278); inscribed stone.



FIG. 110. LLANFOR: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 366); inscribed stone.

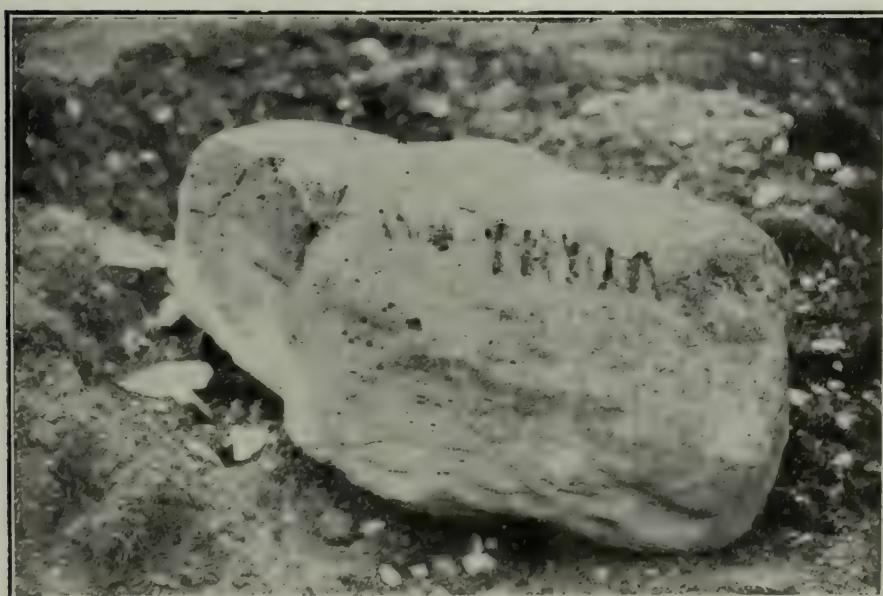


FIG. 111. LLANDRILLO: BLAEN Y CWM (No. 230 ii); ?inscribed stone.



## Parish of LLANFOR.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

369. *Ffynnon Deiniol* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 3''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 34' 46''$ ).

This spring rises in a rough stone enclosure about 40 yards north-west of the churchyard, in a field called 'Cae'r ysgubor.' The enclosure, which measures 2 feet 3 inches by 3 feet, could not have been used for bathing purposes. It is not now commonly called 'Ffynnon Daniel,' but is known as the old well of the parish.—Visited, 15th May, 1913.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

370. *Friends' burial Ground* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 56''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 40' 32''$ ).

This graveyard is a plot 31 feet square, on the farm of Hafod Fadog. It is surrounded by a low ruined wall, and a few trees grow about it. The farm house of Hafod Fadog stands close by, and an old building adjoining the house is said—doubtless with truth—to have been used as a Quakers' meeting house.—Visited, 21st May, 1913.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

371. *Cae'r garreg ucha and issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 6 N.W. ; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 25''$  and  $29''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 37' 4''$  and  $2''$ ).

These are two fields on the farm of Carreg y ddafad, which is situated in Cwm Maen (see No. 381, note). No artificial remains are visible in either field, but it is highly probable that prior to their sub-division there was here a menhir which gave the valley its name. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 2766 and 2767.—Visited, 2nd July, 1913.

372. *Garnedd ucha and issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 59''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 37' 18''$  and  $15''$ ).

There are no certain indications of a carnedd on either of these adjoining fields appurtenant to the farm of Ty'n y ddol; but close to the stile leading from one to the other are fragments that might have belonged to a destroyed cairn. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 2407 and 2409.—Visited, 21st May, 1913.

373. *Caerau ucha and issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 47''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 31' 9''$ ; 15 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 34''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 31' 25''$ ).

The appearances are natural. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 675 and 699.

374. *Sarnau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 31' 50''$ ).

This is the name of a hamlet on the Corwen-Bala road from which several old tracks diverge, one of which, running in a north-easterly direction, appears to lead to the important camp of Caer Euni, but its course cannot be traced with certainty very far. About 150 yards east by south of the hamlet is a raised bank which forms a sarn or footpath through the marshy ground leading towards Llandderfel; it probably gave rise to the name.—Visited, 16th May, 1913.

375. *Bryn Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 29''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 32' 36''$ ).

A field on the farm of Ty issa, the name of which has probably no archaeological significance. Tithe Survey, No. 1347.—Visited, 19th May, 1913.

376. *Maes y gadfa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 41''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 0''$ ).

The name of a farm in Cwm tir mynach of which no explanation could be given. There are no antiquarian remains. The adjoining farm is called 'Gorseddfa,' where the mound from which the name is taken is altogether natural.—Visited, 2nd July, 1913.

## Parish of LLANFOR.

377. *Foel y ddinas* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 2''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 33' 20''$ ).

High ground to the south of Rhos y gwalia, whereon no traces of fortifications or hut circles could be discerned. Tithe Schedule, No. 1627.—Visited, 10th July, 1913.

378. *Tir maen llwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 40''$  and  $43''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 33' 15''$  and  $18''$ ).

Two fields, doubtless one formerly, where the prominent standing stones are natural. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 1900 and 1901.—Visited, 26th May, 1913.

379. *Cae'r garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 18''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 34' 20''$ ).

A field on the farm of Yspyddadog [Ysprydhadog, *Ed. Lhuyd*] which still goes by the above name, but where no garnedd now remains. Tithe Schedule, No. 1713.—Visited, 19th May, 1913.

380. *Cae garn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 N.W. and N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 57''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 36' 30''$ ).

It may be well to state that the proper name of the field thus indicated attached to the farm of Hendre Newydd is 'Cae cam' (the crooked field), and not 'Cae garn' (the field of the cairn), as it appears in the Tithe Schedule, No. 2618.

381. *Cwm tir mynach* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 44''$ – $58' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 37' 10''$ – $35''$ ).

The above indications roughly set forth the bounds of the district still called 'Cwm tir mynach,' given in 1183, with much adjoining land, by Elisso ap Madoc to the monks of Ystrad Marchell (Strata Marcella). Through the valley flows Afon y mynach, and at the south end is Pont mynachddwr ; Nant y cyrtiau may also be mentioned. Just north of and impinging upon it is a series of names which indicate episcopal properties—Hafod yr esgob, and Hafotty yr esgob. The whole tract of land is designated in the charter as "Llecheduin," which it has been suggested stands for 'Llech' or 'Llechwedd y figin,' the name of a farm about a mile to the north. (*Mont. Coll.*, iv, 20, and ix, 347.)

NOTE.—The above identification is rendered probable by the following entry from Pub. Record Office, *Rentals and Surveys*, portf. 30, 24 Eliz.—'John Wyn ap Cadd'r tenet tot ' ill ' p'cell ' terr ' nup ' monaster ' de Strat marcell ' in Come myne [Cwm maen, see No. 371] et Llechwedd y vythin.' \*

382. *Brynn y pader* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 18''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 33' 56''$ ).

This is the point of the hill above Llanfor church at which travellers were accustomed (according to Edward Lhuyd; *Parochialia*, ii, 63) to repeat their pater-noster on first catching sight of the church. It is not possible now to see the church from this hill by reason of the intervening trees ; still less is it possible from the road below.—Visited, 16th May, 1913.

383. *Eglwys An* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 0''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 36' 0''$ ).

This name is now applied to a stretch of light sandy soil forming a rabbit warren, as well as to the keeper's cottage, and to a farmstead, all comprised within the township of Llaithgwm, which formerly belonged to the parish of Llandderfel. The remains to which reference is now made consist of a few stones which are just visible, and of others which were felt beneath the turf. The available space is 33 feet east and west, and 21 feet north and south. The remains are not sufficiently defined to give any idea of orientation. A spring of water rises a few yards north-west of the site, which is a slight elevation in a hollow about 500 yards north of Llyn Maen Bras. The indications undoubtedly point to the former existence of some structure which has

\* A century later Edward Lhuyd has the note "Kwm mein (i.e., Kwm main) belongs to John Wyn, Esq., of Garth Meilio" (*Parochialia*, ii, 63).

## Parish of LLANFOR.

disappeared. The Inspecting Officer was informed by Mrs. Richards, of Llaithgwm, that her husband, who died six years previously, used to point out the site just described as the spot where it was traditionally believed the little church of Eglwys An (or Eglwysan, as is the local pronunciation) stood.—Visited, 3rd Oct., 1913.

NOTE :—Llanfor borders upon the Denbighshire parish of Llangwm, and a reference to Eglwys An appears in the volume dealing with the monuments of that county. At p. 125 of that volume the following extract is given from *Peniarth Ms.* 176, now in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth—a genealogical Ms. written by Gruffudd Hiraethog between the years 1545 and 1553.—“Maen y Bardd y sydd ar y ffodd rrwng kadair dinmael ar betws o vewn tref lys an vab y lleian ac yn y main hynny y rrain sydd yn vedrod gron vechan i kad an ab y lleian amvrddyn y lleian y sydd is law hynny yn ymyl . . . y llyssdir” : The meaning of which seems to be—“The stone of the bard is on the way between Cader Dinmael and Bettws [Gwerfil Goch] within the *treflys* of the nun’s son. And in those stones which form a small round grave, was begotten the son of the nun. And the ruined walls of the nun are below them near . . . the demesne.”

The present site is not far short of ten miles from Llangwm and Cader Dinmael with which it was suggested in the notice referred to that the antiquarian relics of St An were associated. But it would appear that the church dedicated to this otherwise unknown Welsh saint should rather be looked for in the Merionethshire parish of Llanfor.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

385. A so-called “crystal pebble” kept at Rhiwedog; a water-worn piece of vein quartz that has been polished by a lapidary.

Illustrated in *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, i, 313; 1885, V, ii, 73.

## Parish of LLANFROTHEN.

## DIVISION Id (CIRCLES, ETC.).

386. *Hut Circles* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 38''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 46''$ ).

On the southern slope of Craig y Dinas, a height rising about 500 feet above the parish church, and close to the eastern wall of a field called Cae cefn ty are two distinct hut circles. No. 1 is 19 feet outside and 12 feet inside diameter; the surrounding wall stands to a height of about 2 feet. No. 2 is about 18 feet outside diameter, but is too ruined for further measurements.

A few yards north of these circles is a rectangular enclosure, the largest side being about 18 feet exterior and 11 feet interior. The corners are rounded so as to make the shape almost oval. The entrance faces east. This is much ruined.—Visited, 25th August, 1914.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

387. *Park* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 3 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 30''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 42''$ ).

The influential family of Anwyl had their original seat at Park. The present residence was erected in 1671, but there stood in its immediate proximity an earlier



Fig. 75A.

building of which a few ruins still exist, and which may have been partially or wholly dismantled to provide material for its successor. The existing house, though

## Parish of LLANFROTHEN.

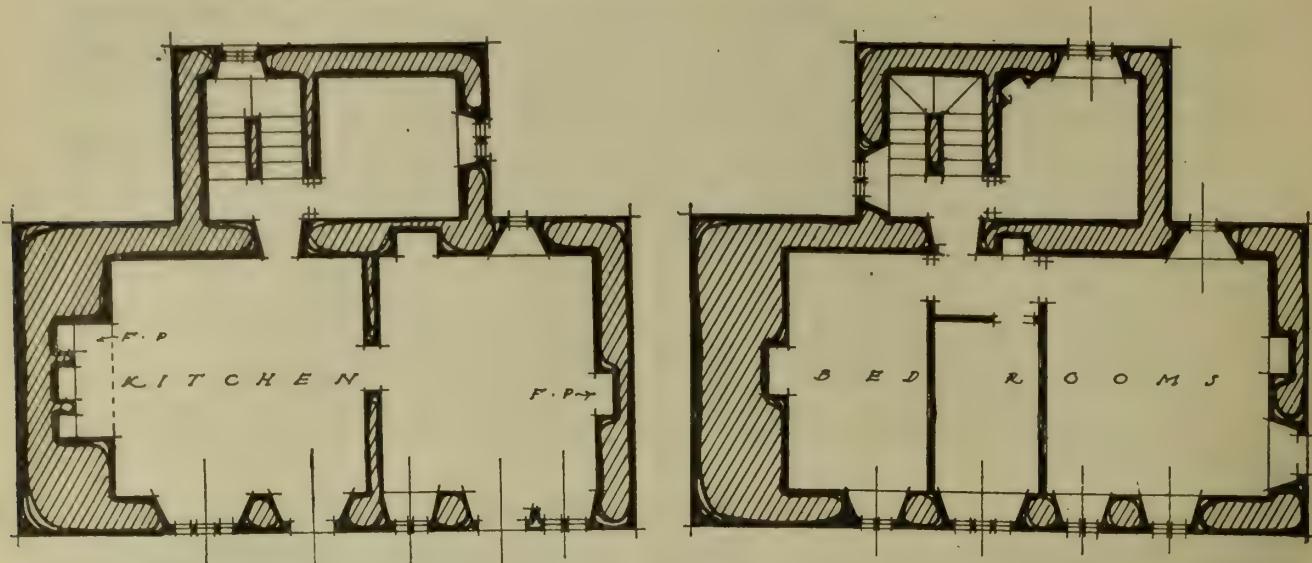


Fig. 75b.

doubtless much the same as when first erected, has been modernised.—Visited, 23rd August, 1916.

388. *Plas Newydd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 49''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 7''$ ).

This is the residence of a cadet branch of the Anwyls of Park, having been built by Katherine Anwyl in 1677. It has been unoccupied for many years, and is now fallen into a condition of sad decay. In plan the house is a rectangle of 55 feet by 23 feet. It consists of one storey and a range of attics. The ground floor is divided into two unequal parts by a broad passage, the greater part being given to the kitchen and offices. Some of the windows retain their original stone mullions, but the larger number have been modernised; there is a rude porch over the blocked-up back door. The apartments of the family have lost whatever charm they may have once possessed. Just north of the 'plas' is the farmer's house of the same date, but of a poorer character. The most interesting feature is the flight of broad exterior steps, leading up to the unmarried servants' sleeping quarters.—Visited, 21st August, 1914.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

389. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 N.W.). Ded: St. Brothen. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

This church consists of a single chamber, the chancel and nave being divided only by a screen. It has a new south porch replacing an older one, a closed north door and a double bell-cote above the western gable. The floor rises from the porch both eastwards and westwards.

The original church may date from the 13th century, to which period belong three lancet windows in the east wall. Lighting the chancel are two long square-headed windows, one on either side; these are probably late 17th or early 18th century insertions, as also may be a similar plain slit in the south wall of the nave. The window at the west end is a tall lancet, which, though much repaired, is probably original. The other windows are modern. The closed north door and that of the porch have flattened arches internally and pointed externally; both appear to belong to the 14th century. The roof is plainly timbered, with carved collar beam and two struts above. The oak screen is in part the original. The lower portion is filled with panelling in which are cut oblong holes of varying size. The upper part has square fluted shafts with bases of classic type, and classic ornamental details; it was probably erected originally on a low screen, or substituted for the upper open panels of the original screen that may have required repairing. Behind the altar is a beam 7 feet 2 inches long, now supported by posts at each end, having 17th century finials which appear to have formed benchends. This oak beam is carved

## Parish of LLANFROTHEN.

with a vine-leaf pattern, and is doubtless a portion of the original screen. It is called "Y Gredin" probably because the *Credo* used to be recited before or beneath it. The font is octagonal, and most probably of the late 15th century, when a renovation seems to have taken place and the screen was inserted. The church chest, made out of a single tree, is a fine example ; it is 54 inches long, 21 inches broad, 14 inches high at each end, with a slight rise from each side towards the middle. A tall oak alms-box, 39 inches high, having two locks still remaining and one removed, and with openings for alms, is an interesting object. The churchyard contains two tombstones that are almost illegible, but are said to commemorate some of the kinsfolk of Bishop Humphreys of Bangor and Hereford. The date, 1720, and name of Humphreys are discernible on one of them. The square dial post is set on a horseblock of three steps outside the east end of the churchyard ; it has lost the dial plate but retains the date 1768.—Visited, 13th August, 1914.

[Illustrated, fig. 76.]

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

390. *Sarn Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 N.E., 3 S.E. and S.W.).

The principal line of communication passing through this parish in early and mediæval times was the track which is usually known as *Sarn Elen*. If it was in existence before and during the period of the Roman occupation of the station at Tomen y Mur in the adjoining parish of Maentwrog (No. 492), it was doubtless used as the most direct road to Segontium (Carnarvon). But no evidence of such use has been produced, and it is probable that it was not until the establishment of the administrative system for the government of Wales by Edward I. that the line of road under consideration was improved into something entitled to the name of the king's highway.

It is, however, fairly certain that as soon as communication became necessary between the central districts of Merioneth and the western outlet of the Menai Straits, the road by which such communication was effected left the parish of Festiniog and entered that of Llanfrothen at a point on the hillside in the present purely artificial boundary that may be indicated as lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 32''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 3''$  (sheet 11 N.E.). The track at this spot, as it has been for a considerable distance in the neighbouring parish, is a clearly defined road from 66 to 72 inches broad, and, with few gaps, bounded on each side by a stout thick-set hedge. It exhibits a certain directness and method of negotiating the difficulties in a very difficult country that strikes a careful observer, and proves its "lay-out" to have been the work of a practical person. From the boundary line it assumes a direction that is almost a straight course for the Pass of Aberglasglyn, the only direction it could take if its objective was Segontium or the neighbourhood. It passes a cottage called Ogo Llechwyn, and crosses a hill called Penbryn Gwail (lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 6''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 0''$ ) at a height of about 800 feet above sea level. In its passage over the ridge it displays no features that betoken Roman construction. From the height of Penbryn Gwail it can be seen proceeding northwards a little to the east of Pen yr allt farm, but, northwest of the farm-house, its course, though easily followed, is not quite so definite. At lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 58''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 28''$  (sheet 3 S.W.) it touches the village of Croesor, and a glance backward from thence will make the track more easily recognisable than it appeared to be when traversing it. Beyond Croesor to the border of the parish and of the county, it is excellently preserved, being in this part of its course a well constructed road from 8 to 10 feet wide, generally above the surface level, and the sides built up with slate stones or protected by earthen banks. In some parts its surface is gravel, with large flag stones laid diagonally, especially at a sharp alteration of slope ; at other places it is cobbled with slate nodules, and at many spots it rests on the live rock. This final portion of its route through Llanfrothen is a descent to the little river Dylif or Dulif, the crossing of the stream being marked on the Ordnance maps with the words "Olion Rhufeinig" in Old English type. This means "Roman vestiges," and it is presumed that the words are intended to refer to the features of the road to which attention has been drawn ; there are no other Roman remains. The stream is covered by a small single-arched bridge. The present bridge does not look older than a century or so, but there probably was a small stone or timber bridge at this point in very early times.—Visited, 14th and 25th August, 1913.

## Parish of LLANFROTHEN.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

391. *Hen Ffynnon* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 1''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 5''$ ).

This spring which rises a few yards west-by-north of the church is, without doubt, the saint's well mentioned by Edward Lhuyd in 1698 as "Ffynnon Vrothen, near the church" (*Parochialia*, ii, 108). It is on the east bank of a nameless stream that passes through the yard of Ty'n y llan. The spring still flows, and the well is protected on three sides by masonry; it could hardly have been used for adult bathing.—Visited, 13th August, 1913.

392. *Ffynnon Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 3 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 58''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 30''$ ).

This is a well on the side of Sarn Elen, a few yards above the village of Croesor. The water has been directed into a tank for the better supply of the village, but the well still remains. There is no genuine mediæval tradition concerning it, and it is only since the growth of the legend of Elen, or the Roman empress Helena, that it has received its present name from that of the early trackway called Sarn Elen.—Visited, 14th August, 1914.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

393. *Moel y Dinas* or *Craig y Dinas* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 40''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 46''$ ).

This is an altogether artificial formation, with no indications of early fortifications.—Visited, 25th August, 1914.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

394. *Bronze Spear*. In the year 1909 Mr. R. S. Pritchard, of Park, Llanfrothen, discovered a fine bronze spear in a quantity of fallen talus at the foot of the mountain called Cnicht. *Arch. Camb.*, 1910, VI, x, 331.

## Parish of LLANGAR.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

395. *Y Gaerwen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 14''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 53''$ ).

This is an area at the summit of Y Foel, enclosed by banks of mixed earth and stone, which has been almost entirely destroyed through the removal of the boulders for building the adjoining walls. It is an almost perfect circle about 100 yards in diameter. The foot of the bank can still be followed, though it is almost level with the surrounding soil. The enclosure was probably not constructed for a military post but may have been a cattle enclosure, the approaches being easy for animals.—Visited, 11th June, 1913.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION D (CASTLE MOUNTS WITHOUT ENCLOSURES).

397. *Gwerclas Mound* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 4''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 30''$ ).

The owners of Gwerclas were formerly lords of Cymmer, comprising that portion of the parish of Llangar north of the Dee that concentrates naturally upon Gwerclas;\*

\* There is now no house in this district called Cymmer, but a pew in the disused church of Llangar is inscribed "W. J. Cefn Cymmer, 1759." Cymmer (a confluence) derives its name from the meeting-place of the Alwen with the Dee.

## Parish of LLANGAR.

and the flat meadow in front of the present residence and of the river Dee is called 'The Mount.' The only rising in this meadow at present perceptible is to be noticed in the north-east corner of it overlooking the Dee, to the extent of about 5 feet and 60 feet of diameter, probably representing the remains of the earthen castle. The first syllable of 'Gwerc las' is the Middle-English *wark*, meaning 'the green mound'; and the name 'The Mount' is practically decisive of the former nature of the site. It was probably the seat of the Welsh barons of Llangar.—Visited, 29th July, 1913.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

398. *Gwerclas Hall* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 5''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 34''$ ).

This is a large house standing within the meadow called 'The Mount' (see preceding art.), and probably the successor, at perhaps two or three removes, of the mount castle that marked the *llys* or hall of the mediæval barons of Llangar. The present house for the most part dates from the year 1767, when it appears to have been built by H. H. Lloyd, of Plymog and Gwerclas, and Margaret his wife; but the foundations and some of the back premises are of older date. In the ground floor at the back is a low mullioned window of two lights of the 17th century, and some of the brickwork is of that period.—Visited, 10th June, 1913.

399. *Plas Ucha* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 37''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 37''$ ).

The present dwelling-house consists of the hall of what must have been a fine example of 16th century domestic architecture, into part of which a floor has been introduced, thus transforming the hall into a tenement dwelling. A good many of the original timbers still remain, and appear to be in good state of preservation. An oaken passage runs from front to back about the centre of the building, and the principal doorway has a depressed arch.—Visited, 29th July, 1913.

[Illustrated, fig. 12.]

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

400. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E.). Ded: St. John.\* Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Montgomery; rural deanery of Edeirnion.

This is a modern church, built in the village of Cynwyd in 1856, in consequence of the abandonment of the former edifice at Llangar. It contains a few memorial slabs brought from the deserted church, chiefly of members of the ancient families of Plymog and Gwerclas.—Visited, 30th July, 1913.

[Illustrated (the old parish church), figs. 16 and 112.]

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

401. *Cynwyd Bridge* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 35''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 37''$ ).

This bridge is said with every probability of truth to have been built in 1612†, though it has doubtless been renovated and perhaps widened during the intervening period. It has four large arches and one small flood arch, with six triangular niches over the piers, three on either side. The breadth of the roadway is 11 feet, and of the niches 3 feet 10 inches.—Visited, 13th June, 1913.

\* The dedication of the old church is to All Saints. Archdeacon Thomas (*Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph*, 1911, ii, 160) quotes a reference of Edward Lhuyd to Ffynnon Fynws: "lle y byddent gynt yn offrwm pinneu keimyon os bydde defaid hyd y dwylo i gael ymadel a hwynt." Ffynnon Fynws is in the Denbighshire parish of Llanrhaiadr ym Mochnant (See the inventory of that county, No. 495).

† Nat. Library of Wales: *Add. MS. 253*, f. 338.

## Parish of LLANGAR.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

402. *Cae'r Groes* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 5''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 25' 9''$ ).

No satisfactory explanation can be given of this place-name. It is not at a cross-roads. Tithe Schedule, No. 414.—Visited, 10th June, 1913.

403. *Bryn Saint* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 16 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 9''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 23' 23''$ ).

A hill above Llangar rectory, probably associated with some forgotten circumstance in the life-work of the local saint ; it is now built on.—Visited, 21st June, 1913.

404. *Pen y Palmant* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 38''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 24' 46''$ ).

This is now the name of a ruined cottage at the head of the road that drops to Cynwyd Bridge, and near Ty'n twll. An ancient paved way can be perceived north of Ty'n twll for about 200 yards, its course lying above the present road of easier gradient. The meadow south-east of Pen y palmant cottage is still called 'Dol pen y palmant.'—Visited, 26th July, 1913.

405. *Moel y laddfa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 15 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 45''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 26' 0''$ ).

This name, 'the hill of slaughter,' is traditionally associated with Rhyd y Saeson, 'the Englishmen's ford,' close at hand, but no clear tradition is forthcoming. Tithe Schedule, No. 163. Edward Lhuyd mentions the house under the form "moel y Llyddva."—Visited, 11th June, 1913.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

406. *Polished Stone Celt*, found at Bryn Saint ; 7 inches long, 4 inches wide,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick. Former history unknown ; now preserved at Rug.—Seen, 11th June, 1913.

406A. *Bronze Palstave*. "A palstave ( $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches) from Cynwyd (Arch. Journal, xxxiii, 118) appears to be of the winged type, with a slight projection on each of the sides a little below the level of the stop-ridge" (Evans, *Bronze Implements*, 1881, p. 79). A bronze palstave which is said to have been found at Upper Mill, Cynwyd, in the year 1855, is now in the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, and may be the same with the one here described.

In the same Museum is a bronze celt said to have been discovered at Rhyd y glavys (Rhyd y glafais on the original 1 inch Ordnance map), Cynwyd, in the year 1889.

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## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

407. *Carneddau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 41' 22''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 48''$ ).

On the summit of Braich ddu in the northern part of the parish are at least seven small cairns lying near together, each of an average height of 2 feet. They stand along the border line of the parish and may have been raised as boundary marks, a purpose which their somewhat irregular position would appear to denote.—Visited, 24th June, 1914.

## DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

408. *Llyn Creigenen Issa stones* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 25''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 45''$ ).

About 100 yards to the west of the southern termination of the lower Creigenen [Crogenen, 6 in. Ord. sheet] pool are two standing stones which are probably of

## Parish of LLANGELYNNIN.

archæological significance. The larger stone is 6 feet 6 inches high, well proportioned, and rounded at top; the smaller is 1 foot 6 inches high, and pointed. A passing labourer said that one of the stones is called 'y garreg ddwybig.'—Visited, 17th April, 1914.

409. *Llanfendigaid maenhir* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 45 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 34''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 48''$ ).

Just outside the north end of a field called Cae'r Capel is a stone standing to the height of 5 feet, with a girth at the base of 10 feet 8 inches, and at the top of 6 feet 9 inches. It is probably commemorative, but may not be prehistoric.—Visited, 1st May, 1914.

410. *Ynys Faig mein hirion* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 40' 55''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 40''$ ).

In an enclosure called Fridd Ynys Faig on the slopes of Gallt Ffynnon yr hydd are four mein hirion, one being prostrate; they stand in a straight line west and east, and at one time may have formed part of an avenue. The length of the prostrate stone is 6 feet 8 inches.—Visited, 12th June, 1914.

## DIVISION Id (STONE CIRCLES).

411. *Maes pant y llan Circle* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 21''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 41''$ ).

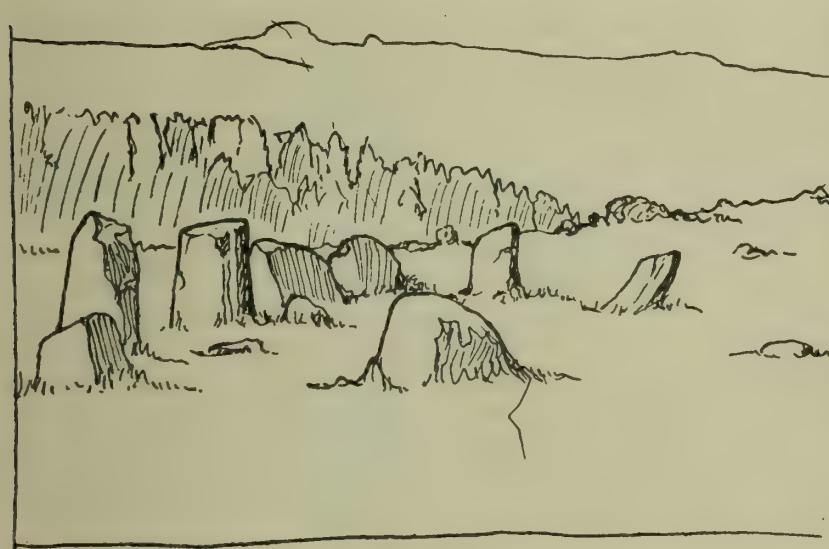


Fig. 113.

About 200 yards north-east of the ruin known as Llys Bradwen is a collection of large boulders which appear to have originally formed part of a stone circle, and the site is so marked on the 6 in. Ordnance sheet. The gaps between the stones are so wide, and the deviation of several of them out of the circumference so considerable, that a further account would be of little profit and an attempt at reconstruction altogether misleading. They are, however, not shown on the original 1-inch map.—Visited, 28th October, 1913.

412. *Porth y gwyddfwlch Hut Circle* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 40' 25''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 3''$ ).

In an enclosure from the mountains about 400 yards to the north of the above-named farm (Porth y gwyddfwlch on the modern Ord. sheets) is a circular hollow; this is surrounded by a bank of earth and stones now scarcely higher than the surrounding surface, and two or three feet above the interior. The circle, which is about 40 yards in diameter, encloses the foundations of three slightly-raised circular "cyttiau" from 4 to 5 yards across. There is no indication of communication between these constructions.

In the same "ffrith" are many small mounds of stone, probably surface clearings; and about 20 yards north-west of the above circle is a stone standing about 5 feet high, and a few yards north of the first is a second maenhir 3 feet high. A few yards to the north-west is a circular enclosure divided off into three chambers.—Visited, 24th April and 29th July, 1914.

## Parish of LLANGELYNIN.

413. *Waun Oer Circles* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 40' 32''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 15''$ ).

On the south-western slopes of Cader Idris, and upon the dreary plateau known as Y Waun oer (the cold mead), at 800 feet above ordnance datum, is a circular piece of ground having a diameter of 55 feet, and enclosed by ruined walls. There are entrances on the eastern and western sides, both much demolished. From near the western gap a wall runs across the enclosure, and against this wall are built four cross walls forming three small rectangular chambers, and the ruins of similar chambers are to be noticed in different parts of the circumference of the circle. The foundations of an oblong building are perceptible, 16 feet by 6 feet, and also a number of low stone mounds. There are no evidences of intentional defensive works, and it is probable that the site is a mediæval sheep enclosure.—Visited, 29th July, 1914.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

415. *Castell mawr Camp* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 18''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 50''$ ).

This is a small hill-top earthwork, about 132 yards long from north to south, enclosed by a low bank. On the more sloping side to the west, at a distance of about 20 feet below the bank, is a ditch cut through the solid rock for a stretch of about 100 yards. There is a spring of water within the enclosure.—Visited, 1st May, 1914.

416. *Castell y gaer* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 39' 37''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 58''$ ).

This is a small but interesting hill fort stationed on a prominent eminence immediately to the south of the village of Llwyngwril. It is dominated by higher ground on all sides except westward, in which direction it commands a fine prospect over Cardigan Bay, and in clear weather the Irish hills of Wicklow and Wexford are visible. The hill upon which the camp is situated, though overlooked by a wide semi-circle of higher hills, is itself almost completely isolated, the only side upon which attack would be at all easy being that to the east where the hill reaches out towards the neighbouring heights. The defence consists of a strong bank of earth and stone surrounding the entire summit, the enclosure thus formed having an interior diameter of 220 feet from north to south by 150 feet from east to west. The interior is practically level. Outside the bank is a ditch which varies in depth according to the sharpness of the slope, attaining its greatest strength on the eastern side. A second ditch runs along the front of the position on this side. The entrance is at the south-eastern termination of this outer bank, but it presents no unusual features. The fort would seem to have been intended to meet an attack from the sea, but it appears to be no more than an advanced position intended to cover a general retreat to the higher and more inaccessible country at the back of it.—Visited, 15th August, 1920.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

417. *Bron y Clydwr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 45 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 3''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 30''$ ).

A good example of a yeoman's house of the latter part of the 17th century. The windows have long been modernised, and the dwelling has recently been partly rebuilt and enlarged, but the kitchen and parlour remain much what they must always have been. In the parlour the chimney breast is 9 feet 10 inches long and 6 feet 2 inches deep, while the outer wall is 3 feet 6 inches thick.—Visited, 1st May, 1914.

NOTE:—This was the home of Hugh Owen, the evangelist. He describes himself in his will as "of Bron y clydwr in the parish of Llanegryn," but in 1817 Bron y Clydwr and much adjacent land were transferred from Llanegryn to Llangelynnin. In the parlour of the house is said to be the inscription H. O. M. (Hugh and Martha Owen) 1688, which is now covered or invisible.

418. *Pant Phylip* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 32''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 0''$ ).

This is a good house of the usual Merioneth type, having three pointed dormers in the roof, a panelled passage on the ground floor from front to back, on each side

## Parish of LLANGELYNIN.

of which is a large room, one the house-place or parlour, the other the kitchen. Over the front door is the legend E.O.M. (Edward and Margaret Owen), 1731.— Visited, 28th October, 1913.

419. *Llwyn du* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 40' 12''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 46''$ ).

This is a much modernised early 18th century brick dwelling house, whose only interest arises from its connection with the family of Humphreys of Llwyn-gwrl who were devoted Quakers, and most of whom emigrated to Pennsylvania (Glenn, *Merion Tract*, 243). On a beam in one of the front rooms is an inscription, partly hidden by a partition wall, so that the letter H and the date 1708 can alone be seen.—Visited, 24th April, 1914.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

420. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 40 S.E.). Ded: St. Celynin. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ystumaner.

The ancient church of the parish stands in a spot remote from the present centre of the population, immediately above the sea shore. A new church erected in the village of Llwyngwrl has led to the disuse of the building except during the summer months. It has recently been carefully restored by Mr. H. Harold Hughes, A.R.I.B.A.

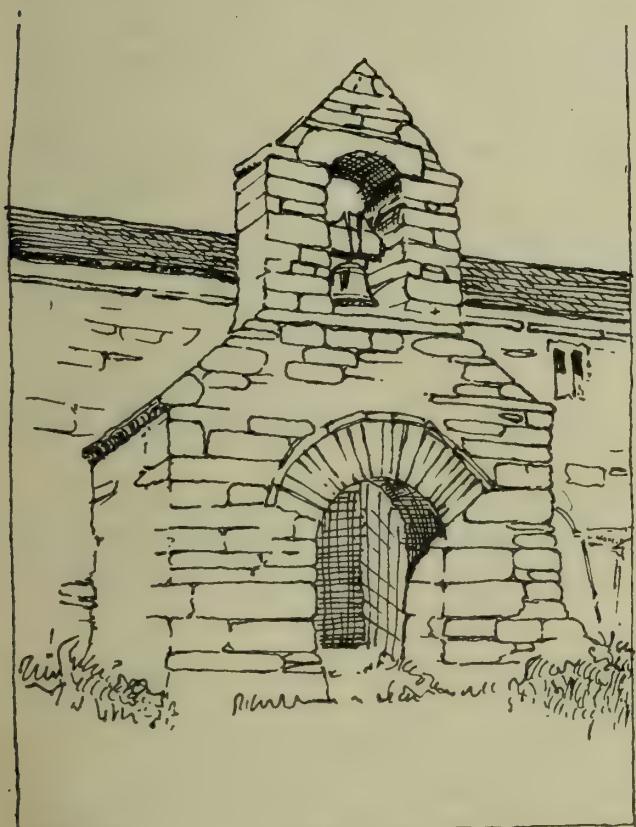


Fig. 114.

referred to. In the church is a horse bier (*elor feirch*), 16 feet 10 inches long.— Visited, 1st May, 1914, and 15th August, 1919.

[Illustrated, fig. 14.]

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

421. *Llys Bradwen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 19''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 50''$ ).

In the enclosure called Maes pant y llan are the remains of what is popularly styled the residence of Ednowain ap Bradwen, the head of one of the supposititious Fifteen Tribes of Wales. The ruins are much overgrown, and it is difficult to make

## Parish of LLANGELYNNIN.

out the details of the building which once stood upon the site. Sufficient, however, still exists to show that the original structure was almost square, measuring internally about 40 yards east and west by 35 yards north and south. The walls are formed of earth and stone, and in some places are about 2 feet high and nearly 9 feet thick at the base. Huge boulders are built into the walls or formed parts of the substructure, as seen in many of the older houses of the county. The north side of the building, which stood upon a rock that has been scarped level with the walling, has disappeared, and a later wall built on its foundations. There were entrances in the middle of the east and west sides. Attached to the north-east corner and slightly above its level, is a smaller enclosure, 13 yards east and west by 11 yards north and south, having parallel sides and rounded corners. A little careful investigation would doubtless solve the problems which the remains present. Pennant refers to it in his *Tours* (ed. 1810), ii, 241.—Visited, 28th October, 1913.

422. *Eglwys Goel* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 11''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 49''$ ).

Three hundred yards directly south of Llys Bradwen are the ruins of a rectangular building, 26 feet by 13 feet, which goes by the name of Eglwys Goel or Goch, though why the spot is associated with a religious edifice it is difficult to conceive. The walls are constructed of earth and stones, and there are no ashlar or mortared walls. A small square chamber has been built in one corner of the structure, and there are remains of a chimney. There is no water in or near the ruins to suggest its use as a medieval well-chapel. Without some excavations it is altogether impossible to conjecture the original purpose of the building.—Visited, 28th October, 1913.

NOTE.—The late Mr. R. Prys Morris in his *Cantref Meirionydd*, p. 359, says that the so-called church was used as a small farmstead about the year 1796 or later.

423. *Friends' Burial Ground* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 40' 12''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 50''$ ).

About the year 1646 a small piece of ground called Bryn y Tallwyn was set aside by Mr. Humphrey Owen out of his land of Llwyn du for the burial of his co-religionists the Quakers. The ground is walled-in, and the entrance gateway is inscribed "Friends' Burial Ground, 1646."—Visited, 24th April, 1914.

Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 364.

424. *An old cockpit* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 8''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 53''$ ).

A circular enclosure close to the farm of Hafotty fach, the bank of which, made of earth and stones, is 3 feet high on the inside and 4 feet on the outside of the bank; there is a slight gap on the south. The circle is about 50 feet in diameter.—Visited, 31st October, 1913.

Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 379.

NOTE.—Mr. Morris mentions another cockpit as being near the former, but it could not be located.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

425. *Y Ffordd ddu*, 'the dark road' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 36 S.E.).

This is an ancient trackway which has been sometimes taken as the line of communication used by the Romans between the station at Pennal and that of Tomen y Mur; but it does not appear to be connected with Pennal, and the more direct route from the latter station to the point at which it crossed the river Mawddach would seem to have taken the direction of Corris. At the foot of Cader Idris the Ffordd ddu bifurcates, but the original course is that viâ Arthog.—Partly traversed, 1st October, 1914.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST.)

426. *Site of Battle* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 22''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 15''$ ).

The modern Ordnance sheets mark the spot indicated above as the site of a battle, but on what authority is not known. The site is a high table-land divided into

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fields on either side of a narrow lane. A neighbouring hamlet bears the name of Rhos lefain, 'the moor of lamentation,' but no satisfactory explanation of it is forthcoming, though it is probably the basis of the popular belief in a sanguinary conflict. The form on the original 1 inch map is Rhos llefen.—Visited, 1st May, 1914.

427. *Beacon Hill* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 45 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 41''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 25''$ ).

Immediately below the beacon on the hill of Tal y garreg are two short trenches, and a little further down the hill, to the south-west, are the faint traces of what appear to have been several "cyttiau," but the indications are not sufficiently definite to permit of further description.—Visited, 1st May, 1914.

## Parish of LLANGOWER.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (CASTLE MOUNTS WITH ATTACHED COURTS).

428. *Castell Gronw* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 6''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 35' 30''$ ).

This small mound-castle which is placed on the southern side of the northern end of Bala Lake, at the point where the river Dee leaves the lake, was without doubt erected for the purpose of controlling the lake and of commanding the crossing, which was most probably effected a short distance above the site of the castle. The mound is about 36 yards in circumference, 15 feet high above the ground level, and 6 feet above the base court ; its summit is flat, and its slopes are covered with trees. The bailey lies to the south-west and extends to a distance of 27 feet, when it is protected on two sides by a small stream.—Visited, 19th May, 1913.

NOTE.—Edward Lhuyd terms the mound "Kastell Kaer Einion," which, even if accurate, can have no connection with the Montgomeryshire parish of that name, or its detached part on the borders of Merioneth. Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt (died 1666) calls it the castle of "Grono Bevr of Benllyn" a personage who figures prominently in the *Mabinogi* of Math ab Mathonwy. Historically the founder is more likely to be a member of the great marcher family of Whittington in Salop whose name was also Goronwy, and who claimed descent from the more mythic chieftain.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

429. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.W.). Ded : St. Cywair. Diocese of St. Asaph ; archdeaconry of Wrexham ; rural deanery of Penllyn ; townships of Isafon and Uwchafon.\*

A small church consisting of a single chamber with no structural division between nave and chancel, a western gable, and a south porch. Above one of the square-headed wooden-framed side windows is the date 1772, which doubtless marks a restoration, and the church was practically rebuilt in the latter part of the 19th century. The bowl of the font is probably earlier than the pillar and the base which are of the Perpendicular period. The churchyard is large, by estimation nearly three acres ; in shape it is square with rounded corners. On the east side is a fine yew tree, 23 feet in girth some four feet above the ground. Opposite the south porch is a mound, east and south of which many of the oldest gravestones cluster ; it is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, and 16 feet long east and west, by 13 feet north and south ; it probably once supported a churchyard cross, but may be far earlier. Amongst the church fittings is a horse bier, now kept in the rectory barn ; it is 18 feet in length, and, according to an aged woman of nearly 90 years old, was in use about 40 years ago.—Visited, 21st May, 1913.

Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph* (ed. 1912), iii, 111 ; Glynne, 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1885, V, ii, 35.

\* The river is now known as Afon y Glyn. Edward Lhuyd styles it Afon Llan Gower. About a mile from the parish church it divides, the northern branch being called Afon y Glyn, and the southern branch Afon Cwmhyfed ; the latter name has dropped out of popular use.

## Parish of LLANGOWER.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

430. *Ffynnon Gower* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 14''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 8''$ ).

The immediate neighbourhood of this well is now so boggy that its exact position and limits can with difficulty be made out. It stands on the verge of Llyn Tegid, about half a mile south of the parish church, between the highroad and the railway, and is to be distinguished from the more accessible spring with stone trough which has usurped the name of Ffynnon Gower. The Inspecting Officer was informed by Mrs. Jones of Ffynnon Gower farm that the character of the water of the two springs was quite different, and that she remembered in her girlhood her father removing some stones that were around St. Gower's well. Edward Lhuyd says that the water of Ffynnon Gower was reputed to be a cure for rickets in children.—Visited, 1st October, 1913.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

431. *Beddau'r brenhinoedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 58''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 36' 38''$ ).

On the farm of Bryn hynod, in a field called Blaen Cae, are two rough irregular stone slabs which are reputed to mark the burials of certain leaders of men in a long past period that cannot be more definitely specified. The ground shows no sign of disturbance, and no finds of any sort have been discovered close around. The name 'Beddau'r brenhinoedd,' 'the graves of the kings,' is probably quite modern and fanciful, but there may be some warrant for the tradition of interments. The farmstead of Bryn hynod is probably one of the early homesteads of the parish ; in the ceiling of the house is a large beam ornamented with squares and triangles.—Visited, 21st May, 1913.

432. *Carn Gower* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 22''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 37' 38''$ ).

This cairn, now destroyed, stood in a field belonging to the farm of Ty Cerrig, near the position indicated above. The field in which it is said to have stood is called 'Cae llech Gower' in the Tithe Schedule (No. 750), and there is a vague tradition of a stone marked with a cross, but nothing more definite could be gathered.—Visited, 23rd May, 1913.

433. *Cae'r garreg lwyd* and *Cae'r garreg lwyd issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 39''$  and  $35''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 35' 25''$  and  $20''$ ).

These are two adjoining fields on the farm of Ty'n y bryn which probably obtained their names from one or more boulders artificially placed, but only protrusions of natural rock remain in either field. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 95 and 89.—Visited, 16th May, 1913.

434. *Cae'r garreg* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 5''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 37' 48''$ ).

The name of a field which may possess no archæological significance. Tithe Schedule, No. 732.

On the open land a few yards south of Cae'r garreg is a roughly circular enclosure of about 60 yards diameter, having a cavity in the centre which may have been the site of a maenhir that has been removed. And about 100 yards to the north-west is another enclosure, in form a rectangle of about 90 by 95 yards.—Visited, 22nd May, 1913.

435. *Carreg* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 44''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 37' 36''$ ).

On the original one-inch Ordnance map a 'Carreg' is marked as an antiquity about 350 yards direct north of the parish church, and on level ground within 100 yards of the shore of Bala Lake. This is not shown on the modern maps, and

## Parish of LLANGOWER.

enquiries elicited that it was blasted to fragments on the construction of the railway line to Dolgelly which passes directly over its site. It is described as a huge monolith which tradition asserted to have been thrown by a giant from a neighbouring height. Two portions of the mass are said to remain; one, 5 feet 6 inches long, lies prostrate in the corner of the field in which stands the original site; the other, 4 feet long, having served as a gatepost, is now fallen a few yards to the west of its companion. There can be little doubt that this object was an altogether natural projection, around which had gathered much folk speculation, and it may well be that this was the real Carn or Llech Gower.—Visited, 4th July, 1913.

436. *Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 8''$  long.  $3^{\circ} 36' 45''$ ).

This is the name of a field on the farm of Glyn Mawr at present containing no evidences of antiquity. Tithe Schedule, No. 356.—Visited, 22nd May, 1913.

437. *Tir Maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 55''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 29''$ ).

A field which contains several large boulders, but whose name having regard to its shape, should possibly be written 'Tir main,' 'the narrow ground.'—Visited, 22nd May, 1913.

## Parish of LLANSANTFFRAID GLYN DYFRDWY.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION B (HILL FORTS).

438. *Moel Fodig* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 1''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 20' 50''$ ).

This camp occupies the flat summit of a hill which is steep on its southern front, falls gradually away to the west and north, and sinks to the level ground of Ffridd Einion\* on the east. It is oval in shape, measuring about 250 feet from east to west by 130 feet from north to south, and is surrounded on all sides by a bank of earth and stones, which on the precipitous southern side is no more than a foot high but increases as the bank proceeds eastward. On the slope of the hill, from 8 to 9 feet below the ground level of the camp, is a shallow ditch about 6 feet wide, doubtless formed by the excavation for the bank above. Towards the northern end of the enclosure, and within it, a corner seems to be cut off by a bank which appears to run obliquely across from one side to the other, but the thick undergrowth prevented proper examination of this feature. It may be of comparatively recent construction and intended for a sheep pen, which also is doubtless the explanation of the opening in the bank leading to Ffridd Einion, and the filling of the ditch at the same point. A modern quarry has swept away a part of the

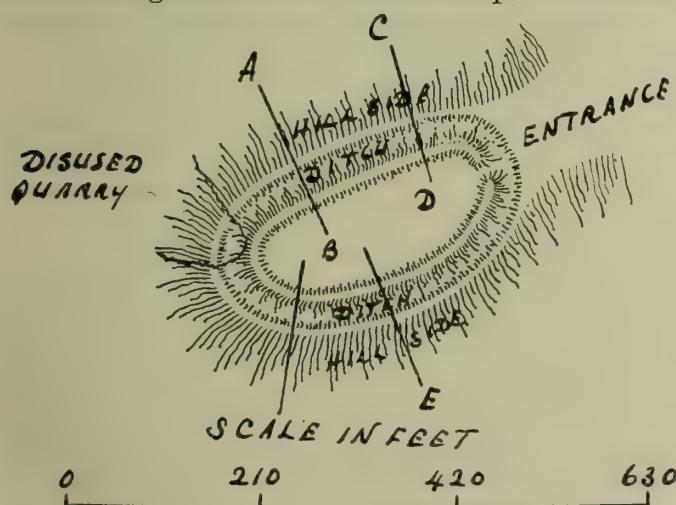


Fig. 115.

western side of the enclosure, probably including the original entrance. There is no

\* This is termed Ffridd Einion on the modern 6 in. Ord. sheet, and an adjacent farmhouse is shown as Cae Einion, but the form given to the name in the Tithe Schedule (dated the 10th August, 1846, and signed by Mr. Aneurin Owen) is Foel Einion. This (whether regarded as an inaccurate spelling of Einion or not) connects it with an entry in Lhuyd's *Parochialia* (i, 121) under the neighbouring parish of Bryneglwys to which attention has already been called in the *Inventory* of co. Denbigh, No. 60A, p. 19. The entry (translated) is as follows:—"On the mountain [of Bryneglwys] are some ruins called Plase Dab ennion, where there are foundations of a considerable building; the above had a son named Ithel Dab ennion, and to these, as some say, belongs the stone at the corner of the exterior of the church;" and it was then suggested that by Dab ennion the name D. ab Einion was intended. It is, however, more probable that the correct form of the name is Einion.

## Parish of LLANSANTFFRAID GLYN DYFRDWY.

water within the camp, but an abundant supply at no great distance. Two slight depressions may mark the sites of hut-dwellings.—Visited, 8th October, 1914.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

439. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.). Ded: St. Ffraid. Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural deanery of Edeirnion; townships of Llan, [Bodorlas, Hendre Forfydd, Rhagatt].

A church consisting of nave, south porch, western bellcote, and modern chancel; much modernised. The south door is old and has good iron hinges; in the western jamb of the doorway is inserted a fragment of a stone bearing an incomplete date. The font is probably post-Reformation. In the churchyard are several gravestones with hollowed spaces for kneeling, similar to others at Corwen; there are also two ancient yew trees.—Visited, 9th October, 1914.

NOTE.—The townships whose names appear within brackets were transferred in 1863 from Corwen to Llansantffraid, but remain in the parish of Corwen for civil purposes.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

440. *Bwrdd y tri arglwydd, the three lords table* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 N.W.; lat.  $53^{\circ} 0' 39''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 20' 7''$ ).

The site indicated is the point at which the four parishes of Llansantffraid Glyndyfrdwy and Gwyddelwern (co. Merioneth), and Llanelidan and Bryn Eglwys (co. Denbigh) meet. It is also the meeting place of two or more estates whose boundaries at this spot have probably not changed for centuries. The place is called Croessor [Croessau, crossroads], formerly common land, but now enclosed. In the time of Edward Lhuyd the place was marked by three erect stones as "though the three feet of a burial-place (trybedh)," and it is quite possible that the original structure may have been the supporting stones of a dismantled cromlech, which, being well known, were utilised for a boundary mark when the limits of the parishes were laid down. Only one stone survives, and this is now prostrate and much sunk into the ground. In shape it resembles the stones known as hog-backed, and on three of its sides are letters which doubtless are intended to denote the names of the estates which met at this point, or those of their owners.—Visited, 9th October, 1914.

NOTE.—There is another 'Bwrdd y Tri Arglwydd' in the parish of Llansilin (*Inventory of Co. Denbigh*, No. 552).

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

441. *Croes faen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 56''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 19' 55''$ ).

The name of a dwelling mentioned by Lhuyd (*Parochialia*, iii, 47), standing about 500 yards from the parish church where a cross may once have stood; but there is no tradition of such. Tithe Schedule, No. 242.—Visited, 9th October, 1914.

442. *Cae Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 8 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 58' 59''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 19' 52''$ ).

This field is locally known as 'Cae tan y castell,' 'the field below the castle.' Its surface is level, and bears no signs of ever having had any structure upon it. It is dominated on the south-east by a natural hill on which no earthworks are discernible. It is also commanded on the north-west by Cae maen ucha which presents no features calling for notice. Tithe Schedule, No. 193.—Visited, 9th October, 1914.

## Parish of LLANUWCHLLYN.

## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

443. *Cefn Coch Carnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 21 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 40''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 42' 58''$ ).

On the upland known as Cefn Coch, part of the southern slope of Arenig Fawr, and within about 350 yards north-west of Cwm Tylo, are the scattered remains of a ruined carnedd at the spot where the Ordnance sheet marks a "Carn." A low bank is dimly discernible here and there, showing the structure to have been about 30 ft. in diameter.—Visited, 5th July, 1913.

444. *Boncyn Crwn* and *Boncyn Pennant groes* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 29 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 47''$  and  $44''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 32''$  and  $25''$ ).

On the boundary between the parishes of Llanuwchlllyn and Llangower, at the spots indicated, are two low mounds. The most northern which is known as Boncyn Crwn, 'the rounded mound,' is about 40 feet across, and resembles a circular ring or bank rather than a mound. In January, 1901, a paper was read before the British Archaeological Association by Mr. L. D. Jones of Bangor who at some unmentioned, but probably not distant date, had dug into the mound. His account of it is as follows :—

About seven miles from the town of Bala, almost due south, is a farm, in a bleak mountain district called 'Brynmelyn,' standing near a stream called 'Afonfechan.' About half a mile to the north of this farm, on the brow of a declivity overlooking an extensive tract of country, are two small eminences marked on the O.S. map as 'Banciaw Crynion' (Round hillocks).\* One of them is still conical in shape, but the other is truncated by having the summit, which consisted of small stones, quartz, and granite, carted away by the farmers. I made a cutting across this one. I found it almost a perfect circle about 10 yards across, with the foundation of a wall around it. This wall consisted of good-sized stones, built rubble fashion, but without any trace of cement or plaster. About 2 ft. below the present surface I came to a bed of almost pure, clean, wood charcoal about 3 in. or 4 in. thick. It appeared to be spreading in all directions, as if covering a floor. I found nothing else here, except a small piece of bone, which appeared to have been burnt (*Brit. Arch. Assoc. Journal*, n.s., vii, 65).

It is by no means certain that the mound is of the prehistoric period, or even that it has any archaeological significance. The other mound on the Ordnance sheet called 'Boncyn Pennant groes' is probably in intention a boundary mound, formed by covering a natural boulder with earth. Mr. Jones says "I made a slight attack on the other tumulus, but this appeared to be a natural formation, and I abandoned it."—Visited, 4th October, 1913.

## DIVISION Id (STONE CIRCLES).

445. *Circles on Moel Caws* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 28 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 52-56''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 42' 35-38''$ ).

On the southern and western slopes of the hill called Moel Caws, situated in the south-western portion of the parish, are a number of small enclosures in close proximity to each other, some fairly circular, some oval, some rectangular, and some that are circular but containing square or rectangular chambers within or adjoining them, too numerous to be described in detail. Most, probably all, of these constructions are enclosures for sheep with rude provision for sheltering their shepherds, and have no pretension to a prehistoric date, though it is of course possible that there may be amongst them some enclosures of a very early period. The group presents an interesting example of the stone structures of the county, though much of the walling has fallen or been removed.—Visited, 1st October, 1914.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION C (RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURES—ROMAN).

*The following is contributed by Professor R. C. Bosanquet, F.S.A., a Commissioner.*

446. *Caergai*—Roman Fort (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 7''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 40' 3''$ ).

The seventeenth-century manor house (No. 447A) with its outbuildings, gardens, and strips of plantation, occupies the well-marked square platform of a

\* This is not quite accurate. Only one of the mounds is termed 'Boncyn Crwn' on the Ordnance sheet.

## Parish of LLANUWCHLLYN.

small Roman fort. Its length and breadth were about 425 feet, the area four acres. The angles are turned to the points of the compass.

The site is the south-western end of a rounded hill, rising nearly 100 feet above the valley of the Dee which flows within 300 yards on the south. A tributary encircles the hill on north and west, and it is only on the north-east that higher ground extends level with the fort towards Bala lake, distant about half a mile. It commanded a very ancient line of communication from the upper Dee to the Mawddach estuary, the "Bala gap" of geographers. The present high road swerves to avoid the hill of Caergai, but its former course nearly followed the 600 feet contour-line, and passed within a stone's throw of the fort.

Dr. J. E. Lloyd has pointed out that Caergai "was not a place of importance after Roman times until the seventeenth century. It does not give its name to an ancient township; it is in Penarant. Glanlllyn-Tegid was the old house of the district, and appears in Speed's Map, which does not show Caergai" (*Arch. Camb.*, 1919, VI, xix, 575). The tradition which made it the home of Cahir ap Cynyr, the Sir Kay of Arthurian romance, was known to Spenser and Camden in the closing years of the sixteenth century,\* and may be much older. (For the late Latin inscription from Caergai, see below.) But there is nothing to suggest a continuous occupation of the site. None of the modern entrances coincides with the probable position of the Roman gates, and the good preservation of rampart and ditch is best explained by a long period of desertion. It is noteworthy that the comparatively recent walls about the farmstead are built of huge boulders, probably gathered from the surrounding fields when they were brought under cultivation. The Roman masonry was small and regular, as could be seen a few years ago on the south-west side, when four or five courses were still standing; but much of this wall has been rebuilt, and a rank growth of young sycamores is doing damage to such portions as remain. A piece of wall was visible in the farmyard, and there is a dubious record of Roman tiles, "some of which appear to have been the pillars of a hypocaust," found near the farm house (*Arch. Camb.*, 1885, V. ii, 186). Fragments of bricks and flue-tiles were seen near the north-east entrance in 1919, but these were thought to have come from outside. Pottery has been found from time to time, but nothing has been preserved. Vaughan about 1660 records a coin of Domitian which may or may not be the authority for the entry in Lewis's *Top. Dict. of Wales*.

The rampart and ditch are wonderfully perfect near the western angle and along the south-west side. The old avenue leading from Llanuwchlyn to the farm crosses the Roman ditch by a causeway of builders' filling; the position of the Roman gateway and road can be made out midway in the south-west side. Near the southern angle the bank still rises 14 feet above the bottom of the ditch (see fig. 116, and photograph in *Arch. Camb.* 1919, VI., xix, 571). A plan of the site published in *Arch. Camb.* 1883, V., ii., 205, shows a second ditch sweeping out from the southern angle in an irregular semicircle to the west, and rejoining the northern angle, but this needs verification.

Two fields outside have yielded significant remains. Cae'r capelau (mentioned by Edward Lhuyd as *Kae'r Kapel*), which slopes to the south from the south-east rampart, is thought to have been the site of a chapel, since a pavement was found when the field was dug (*Parochialia*, ii, 72). The Rev. W. Hughes writing in 1885 says "bones have been dug up lately in this plot of ground, near the traces of the foundations of a building about 15 feet square, near the centre of the field. The outlines of this building are visible in the surface when the grass is scorched." This field is also called "y fynwent," or "the graveyard" (*Arch. Camb.*, 1885, p. 186). Fenton in 1804 saw in a field below the farm-house "a profusion of Roman bricks of every sort" (*Tours in Wales*, p. 41); these he thought might have been used in later buildings, but it is more probable that the civil settlement stood here outside the fort. The tenant, Mr. Morris Jones, who had himself removed the upper courses of a number of walls in cultivating this field, described them in 1908 in terms which left no doubt about their Roman origin.

North-east of the fort is a field called Cae dwyndir, 'field of bushes or hillocks'—(so Archdeacon D. R. Thomas in *Arch. Camb.*, 1885, p. 201), or

\* Spenser, *Faery Queen*, bk. I, canto ix; Camden, *Britannia* (1600), 593; Robert Vaughan (ob. 1666), *Notes, Cambrian Register*, 1795, i, 191, and *Arch. Camb.*, 1850, II, i, 204.



I. CAERGAI; south-west side near south angle of fort.



II. CAERGAI; south-east side—wall rebuilt.



III. CAERGAI; details of walling at point where figure is gazing in preceding illustration.

FIG. 116. LLANUWCHLLYN: CAERGAI; Roman fort (No. 446).



## Parish of LLANUWCHLLYN.

excavated by Sir W. W. Wynn's agent, Mr. Williams of Gwernhefin. The stone lay "at the north-east angle of what may best be described as a square enclosed in an Oxford frame, the sides of which, including the projections, were 9 feet long by 2 feet broad, forming an enclosing trench  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep and filled, for the most part, with black soil differing from the surrounding earth, and bits of charcoal." Adjoining the north edge of the square "was found a circular pit" 3 feet in diameter and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet below surface, within which pieces of grey pottery (probably an urn) and fragments of Samian ware were discovered" (Archdeacon Thomas in *Arch. Camb.*, 1885, p. 202, with wood-cut of the stone, and of a Samian fragment which may belong to the early part of the second century). For the monument itself see below. It gives us the name of an infantry battalion, the First Cohort of Nervii, which was presumably stationed at Caergai. From a list of regiments on a time-expired soldier's certificate, we know that the First Nervii were in Britain in 105 A.D., but there is no other record of them (see the Sydenham diploma *C. I. L.*, vii, 1194). They were one of four or more cohorts furnished by the districts of Hainault and Brabant to Britain.—Visited, 26th May, 1920, and twice previously.

*Inscribed Stone.* Inscribed and sculptured fragment now in the Chester Museum (Catalogue, No. 210), found in March, 1885, outside the Roman fort, in a field called Cae dentur. (See *Academy*, April, 4, 1885, p. 249; D. R. Thomas, *Arch. Camb.*, 1885, p. 203; *Eph.*, *Epigr.*, vii, 863; J.Y.W. Lloyd, *History of Powys Fadog*, vi, 110; Haverfield, *Trans. Cymrodonion*, 1908-9, p. 44, with photograph).

Block of red sandstone, 30 inches long, 23 inches broad, 10 inches high. Upper part missing. The surviving part has been split lengthwise, probably when the upper portion was hacked away. What remains is the plinth of an oblong monument which bore sculptured reliefs in sunk panels on two of its sides. Below the sculpture on the longer face is a well-cut inscription in letters two inches high.

IVLIVS . GAVERONIS . F

FE . MIL . CHO . T . NER

*Julius Gaveronis f(ilius) fe(cit) mil(es) c(o)ho(r)tis i Ner(viorum) : "Julius, son of Gavero, a soldier in the First Cohort of Nervii, made this."*

The panel above contained two figures of which only the feet are preserved, a man moving to the left, and a wild beast straining back, as though being dragged (? Hercules and Cerberus). The drawing in *Arch. Camb.* (*loc. cit.*) shows a small wheel or rosette carved on the face of the pilaster framing the relief, behind the animal's feet. This feature, since broken away, was probably an external ornament on the pilaster, not part of a chariot as has been supposed. In the narrower end panel there remain only the scaly coils of some serpent or monster.

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A plan in *Arch. Camb.*, *loc. cit.*, 205, shows the finding place, about 120 yards north-east from the east angle. Although there may have been burials near it, "it seems distinct from them," says Dr. Haverfield in his *Military Aspects of Roman Wales*, p. 45 (*Transactions of the Hon. Cymmrodorion Society*, 1908-9); "the inscription and carving can be most naturally interpreted as votive, and the square trench may perhaps represent the foundation of some small wooden shrine, in which the slab was (so to say) the altar-piece." The dedicatory inscription, which would be cut on the upper part of the monument and give the name of the deity, is lost; what we have is merely the sculptor's signature.

[Illustrated, fig. 116.]

*Roman Road.* — It may be regarded as certain that from the earliest times there has existed a line of communication between the valley of the Dee and the valleys of the Eden and Dwyryd; but, when it is sought to connect the Roman stations of Caergai in the former valley and Tomen y mur in the latter, the matter is not so easy. There are few or no traces of such a road in the immediate neighbourhood of Caergai, but at lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 48''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 43' 45''$  (21 S.E.) a short mile from Trawscoed, is an excellent road which, if not made by the Romans, exhibits some of the characteristics of their handiwork. The surface of the road is sunk between a raised platform on either side, the total width from outer edge to outer edge being 22 feet. A little further on the width is 24 feet, and the sites of ancient pits, excavated for its construction, are to be seen at irregular intervals. A more modern track coming from Ty'n y fron in the Lliw valley runs parallel with the older road, which, however, can be clearly followed. At lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 4''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 44' 10''$  it is joined by, and becomes identical with, the old pack road from Bala to Harlech, and is at this point 19 feet wide. It is not very clearly marked, but its probable direction is indicated by the pits along its course. It soon becomes lost in the boggy ground which marks the course of the little river Erwent. At lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 9''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 45' 18''$  the road again becomes apparent as a raised causeway, 22 feet wide, between two slightly higher banks, and shortly afterwards it ceases to be identified with the old packway already mentioned which forks off to the left, while the more ancient road diverges to the north-west towards Cwm Pryssor, leaving this parish for that of Trawsfynydd at lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 0''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 49' 0''$  (21 N.W.). In this part of its course it is known as Sarn Elen.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—MEDIEVAL CASTLES).

447. *Castell Carn Dochau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 21 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 39''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 42' 48''$ ).

The southern spur of the mountain mass of the Arenig lying around the southern end of Bala Lake, which is known by the name of Moel y Graig, terminates abruptly in a craggy promontory that juts out sufficiently upon the flat alluvial plain to constitute the rock an admirable military post.

Such a post occupies the commanding hill-site, but so few are the vestiges of it that it is by no means easy to draw any clear or definite views of its age or plan.\* The promontory ends in a small boss of rock elevated a few feet above the saddle connecting it with the higher ground behind, across which alone it

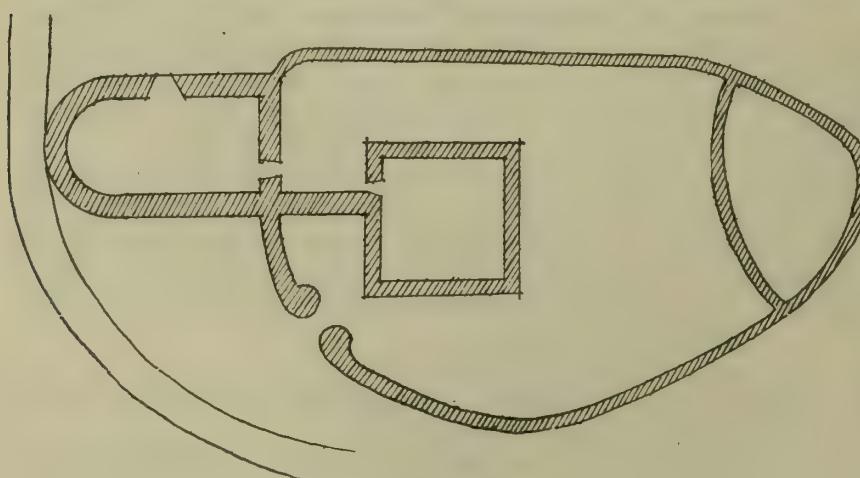
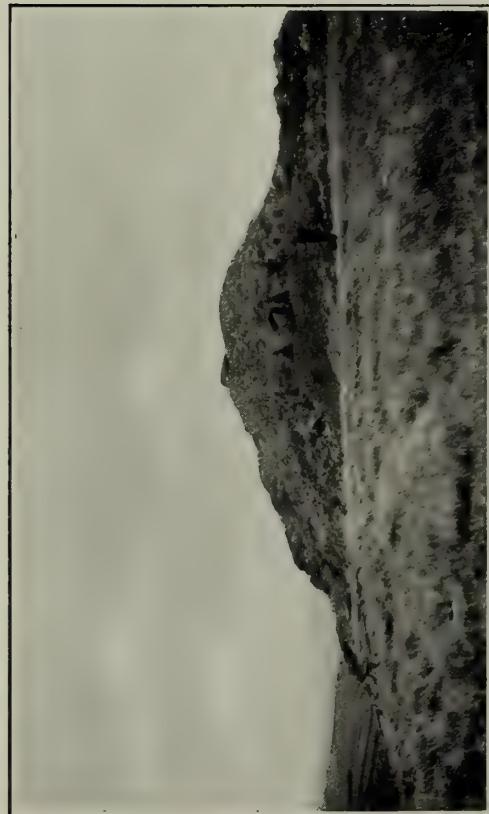


Fig. 118.

can be approached. Immediately at the foot of this elevation a rough moat has been drawn across the front of the position, the ditch being carried slightly

\* The plan that accompanies this article was made in the year 1871 by an amateur. It is substantially accurate.





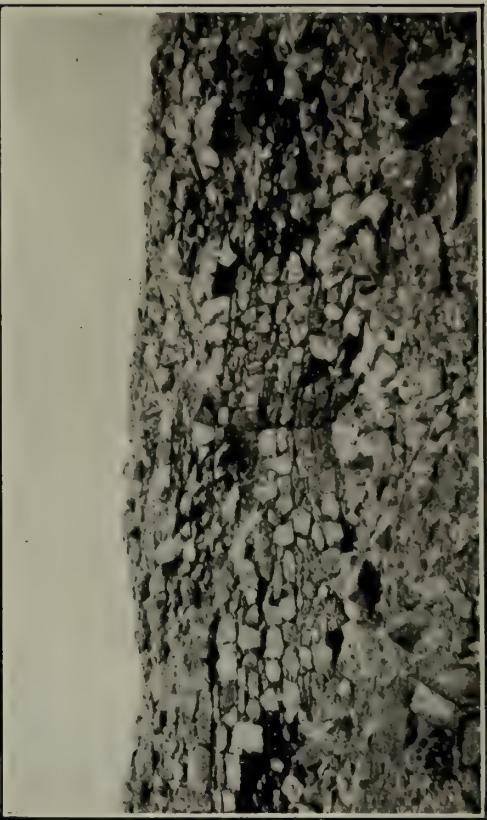
I. General view from north-west.



II. Dismantled cairn at furthest point of rock.



III. Surrounding wall from the south-west.



IV. Square building in courtyard.

## Parish of LLANUWCHLLYN.

round towards the south, which lay a little more open to attack than the northern side. On the platform above the ditch was placed a building, the end wall of which follows the curve taken by the rock and the moat below. This building is about 24 feet long, when it terminates in a stout wall carried directly across from side to side of the summit. The breadth of the enclosure thus formed is about 18 feet. The transverse wall is still standing to a height of 5 to 6 feet, but of the side walls and the curved terminal wall above the moat, only about a foot remains. The walling is of excellent construction, and about 12 feet thick. Starting from the north and south angles of this building a wall runs round the remaining area of the rock, as though to form the space thus enclosed into a small courtyard; this encircling wall follows closely the line of cliff, except at the extreme end of the promontory, which, covered with immense boulders and formed of towering masses of rock, was left outside the line of the wall. In the courtyard, and apparently unconnected with the straight wall of the building already described, or with the outer walls, was a nearly square building of about 25 feet internal measurement. This has been entirely destroyed, but so far as the few courses of original walling can be discerned beneath the fallen debris, the masonry appears to have been of the same character as that of the round-ended building, except that the walls are far less thick. A line of fallen boulders and stone walls runs from the straight wall of the southern chamber to the south wall of the square building as though connecting the two, but it is impossible at present to say whether the line of stones has been adventitiously formed by falls from the surrounding walls, or consists of the debris of an actual wall. Northward of this square building is a tiny open space, now covered with grass springing from a thin covering of soil, but the space is much restricted by the huge blocks of rock that pierce its surface. The northern end of this court, where the exterior walls on both sides of the position approach each other, to meet at a few yards from the extreme tip of the rock, is cut off by a slightly curved transverse wall, but it is altogether impossible to conjecture whether a building of any sort stood against the wall at this end of the position, or whether it merely formed an enclosure for a few sheep or domestic animals. With the exception of a straight wall at the northern end of the first-mentioned building the structure has been so completely demolished that all evidences of doors and windows have disappeared, and in the wall still partly standing are no indications that an entrance was ever constructed. The external wall, which has been mentioned as surrounding a great portion of the position, is a complete ruin; where a few traces of the external or internal walling can be discerned it appears to have been solidly built of excellent masonry. It extended on the north side of the buildings in an almost straight line along the edge of the cliff for a distance of about 60 yards to the point where it bent round to meet the corresponding wall on the south side; the line of the latter wall is slightly curved, following the less precipitous character of the ground on that side. Not far from the point where it adjoins the southernmost building on the rock (that with the rounded end), and aligns with the northern wall of that building, are the ruins of two small round buildings having the appearance of towers that may have guarded an entrance; but they are too ruinous to make it certain that they were constructed in ashlar-work. These structures (supposing them to be towers guarding an entrance) stand within and not upon the line of the external wall which can be traced pursuing a regular and unbroken course between them. That there has existed upon this bleak and wind-swept crag a group of small buildings is certain, but they have been so completely destroyed that it is difficult to pronounce upon the character or antiquity of the originals. It should be added that a great quantity of the debris which covers the site consists of the rounded stones with which the walls of most prehistoric camps or enclosures, as well as modern fields walls are built, and it appears that rounded stones of moderate size must have been used in the construction of the buildings and also of the outer wall.—Visited, 29th July, 1919.

NOTE.—As a reason for assigning a thirteenth or early fourteenth century date for the erection of the castle of Carn Dochan it has been asserted that "in the time of Edward III it was held by Madoc ap Iorwerth, great grandson of Rhirid Flaidd, on condition of protecting the king's justices on their circuit through this part of the country" (*Arch. Camb.*, 1919, p. 573). If the entry of such a grant upon a contemporary roll or record could be produced it would at once settle the point. But no such entry is to be found on any of the rolls. Madoc ap Iorwerth is indeed found about the year 1310 petitioning the king for a confirmation of the grant of the vill of Pennant Lliw which for his good services had been bestowed upon him for the term of his life (*Rec. Caern.*, 219), but no reference is made to the inclusion of Castell Carn Dochan in the grant. Madoc ap Adam was grantee of the township in the year 1315. He was dead by March, 1328, when it was granted to Roger de Heyton, surgeon to King Edward the Third. The castle of Carn Dochan stands within the vill of Pennant Lliw, and had it been in existence at this period as a military position it would unquestionably have

### Parish of LLANUWCHLLYN.

been either mentioned in some one or other of the grants, or specifically excluded therefrom; while if it had been retained in the hands of the Crown it would have appeared in the *Ministers' Accounts*. So far therefore as the public records are concerned there has been found no evidence to prove the existence of Castell Carn Dochán up to the end of the 15th century.

The earliest mention of the name that has been discovered is in a deed now in the Public Record Office dated the 12th October, 13 Henry VIII [1522]. This is an indenture of partition of inheritance between three sisters, one of whom is to have "the stone house, late her father's, situate beside the place called 'Kastell Karn Doghen,' with its appurtenances as it lies there within a certain close." Another sister is to have "a house beside a brook called Gwen firwd running from one part of 'Kastell Karn Doghen,' with its appurtenances in the mountains" (*Ancient Deeds*, C. 5233; *Calendar*, vol. vi). From this document it is impossible to draw any conclusion as to the history or condition of the castle, though it may perhaps be assumed from the reference that it was not then a ruin.

The next notice of the place seems to be that by Mr. Robert Vaughan, who died in 1666, which is as follows:—"In the parish of Llanuwchlyn upon the south bank of the river Lliw on a high craggy rock are seen the walls of an old castle called Castell Carn Dochán" (*Arch. Camb.*, 1850, II, i, 204).

At the end of the same century Mr. Edward Lhuyd, in bishop Gibson's edition of Camden's *Britannia* speaks of it thus:—"Not far from hence [Bala] in the parish of Llan uw' Llyn we find the ruins of an ancient castle whereof no author makes mention. It's called Castell Corndochen, a name whereof I can give no account; and it is seated on the top of a very steep rock, at the bottom of a pleasant valley. It shews the ruins of a wall, and within that of three turrets, a square, a round, and an oval one, which is the largest. The mortar was mixt with cockle-shells, which must have been brought hither by land carriage, about 14 miles. It seems probable that this castle, as also such another (but much less) in Trawsvynydd parish, call'd Castell Pryor, were built by the Romans, but nothing certain can be affirmed therein." It is evident that at this time the buildings which Lhuyd speaks of as "turrets" were standing to a height that rendered them visible above the wall. In his topographical account of the parish (*Parochialia*, ii, 71), Lhuyd only remarks: "Castell Kerndrochen in the township of Pennantliw. This is a very ancient castle of which part of the walls are yet to be seen."

In 1804 Fenton visited the site of which he gives the following description:—"From hence [Llanuwchlyn] rode, finding two deep places in our way to Castell Carndochan, most singularly placed on a very high rocky point to the west of the river [Lliw]. The ascent to it was difficult in the only accessible part to the west. It consisted of a round circle of stones next to the extreme point of the rock to the east, with a deep excavation, like those at Penpits. Another excavation adjoining towards the west. The outer walls nearly square, and the next out an oblong building with a semi-circular termination towards the west of stone and mortar of shells, the whole encircled by a great rampart of earth and stone, so brought to connect with the rock that there appeared no entrance to it. At the distance of a few yards from the outer rampart in front, the ruins of something like a building of loose stones. This has the appearance of great antiquity, and from its scite, form, and materials may be pronounced as old a place as any in Britain. . . . I should think it the refuge of some ferocious chief who had lost all claim to society and who lived by plunder and rapine." (*Tours*, p. 42.)

The next notice of the place is contained in a letter to *Y Gwylieddyd* for 1828 (p. 120), the writer of which says that "about fifty years previously a simple old man thinking to discover a treasure dug through the rubbish to the ground level, but found nothing except human bones and burnt wood." Hence it may be inferred that the castle had been destroyed by fire. To build the walls cockle shells were burnt for lime, and these were not to be had nearer than Traeth mawr or Barmouth.

Finally, in a short paper on the parish of Llanuwchlyn (*Arch. Camb.*, 1885, V, ii, 183), the then vicar adds the important piece of information that "about 1872 further diggings were made, and search made for a doorway, but in vain. Charcoal, blackened soil, animal bones, and pieces of lead were found."

From these different accounts it is manifest that the ruins of Castell Carn Dochán were as much a puzzle to earlier antiquaries as they are to those of the present day, whilst the complete silence of Welsh historical and poetical writers and of the English records to the existence of such a structure points to the conclusion that the period within which it flourished was both brief and unmarked by any outstanding event. The uncommon association of the terms cairn and castle may point to a period, probably prehistoric, when a stone cairned crowned the summit of the rock, and in this connection it should be noted that Fenton describes "a round circle of stones" where the slight remains of a cairn are still traceable.\* Either contemporaneously with the erection of a cairned over the remains of an otherwise unrecorded Dochán, or at some time within the prehistoric period, a "cliff castle" was formed by the construction of a rude ditch and encircling dry stone wall. Still later, possibly in the disturbed period that followed upon the suppression of Owain Glyndwr, a Welsh chieftain, attracted by the natural advantages of the site, for defence as for offence, may have erected several small structures within the earlier walls. Whatever may have been the intention or purpose of the buildings, it is evident from the heaps of ruined material that their height could not have exceeded two stories, and that the whole was fit only for a robber stronghold. The place was probably dismantled after the murder of Baron Owen, one of the barons of the exchequer, in 1555.

[*Illustrated, fig. 119, i-iv.*]

### DIVISION III (STONE—STRUCTURES DOMESTIC).

447A. *Caergai* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 7''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 40' 3''$ .)

This moderately large seventeenth century house is of two stories above the ground floor. The style of the dwelling that may have stood here before 1645 is unknown, for in that year the place was destroyed by the parliamentary forces, the present house being afterwards erected probably upon the same site. The owner

\* In further confirmation of the view that the earliest remains at Castell Carn Dochán are those of a prehistoric cairned, a tradition recorded in Lhuyd's *Parochialia* (iii, 73) may be recalled that "Gwr medhant hwy oed Kerndochan," i.e., "Kerndochan was a man, as 'tis said."

and resident at that date was Rowland Vaughan, who, being a poet, inserted in the front wall of the house several slabs bearing Welsh verses. The interior of the house has been modernised.—Visited, 20th May, 1913.

NOTE.—‘Caer Gai’ can only mean Cai’s camp. The site has been associated with the Arthurian knight Kai or Kay, but there is nothing in the romantic tales of medieval chivalry to warrant the identification. It can hardly be the place indicated in the entry in *Annales Cambriæ*, ‘Strages gaii campi,’ ‘the slaughter of Cai’s (or Gai’s) plain,’ in A.D. 656. The form of the name is thoroughly established, for it appears as ‘Caergay’ in a document of 1611 (British Museum, *Additional Charters*, No. 42614), and as Caergaie in a will of 1612 (*Mont. Coll.*, xxiv, 37).

#### DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

448. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 29 N.W.). Ded: St. Deiniol. Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural deanery of Penllyn; townships of Cynllwyd, Penaran, Pennant Lliw, Tregastell.\*

The church is modern, having been entirely rebuilt in 1873. The font is a survival of the former church; it is octagonal in shape, each alternate side being ornamented with a quatrefoil within a circle; it is 3 feet 4 inches high, and dates from the latter half of the 17th century. An old bench, probably dating from the 17th century, remains. On the north side of the chancel is the effigy of a knight in armour bearing the inscription HIC IOHANES AP G’T AP MEADOC AP IORWERTH CVIVS ANIME PRO[PICIE]TUR DEUS, AMEN. ANNO D’NI MCCCLXX. The churchyard was nearly circular until a few years ago when an addition was made to the south-west corner. The lych-gate was built in 1765. The sundial plate, by Meredith, bears date 1763.—Visited, 23rd May, 1913.

Thomas, *Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph* (1912), iii, 113; Glynne, ‘Notes,’ *Arch. Camb.*, 1884, V, ii, 35.



Fig. 120.

#### DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

449. *Sarn Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 29 N.W., 22 S.W.).

An ancient road which in certain places goes by the name of Sarn Elen passes out of the parish of Llanymawddwy at Bwlch y Beudy (or Bwlch Sirddyn as it is called on the 6 inch sheet, (35 N. W.), and Bwlch maes yr hirdy on the original 1 inch map), but it does not appear to have a clear objective in either direction. In some parts of its course it is in fairly good condition, but in others it has almost disappeared. There is nothing Roman about it, nor does it anywhere pursue the direction that a Roman road might be expected to take in passing directly from Pennal to Tomen y Mur, or in making a detour to take in Caergai. It almost certainly ran past the southern end of Bala lake, and seems to wind through the difficult Arenig country, as if to join the road to Harlech. This would mean that the road was chiefly used in the 14th and 15th centuries, though some parts of it might have had a disconnected existence many centuries earlier.—Partly traversed, 4th October, 1913.

\* It is apparently impossible to settle the location of this township which may have taken its name either from the Roman station of Caergai, or from Castell Carn Dochan. It is not named in the Survey of 7 Henry V (*Rec. Caern.*), nor in the Ministers’ Account, 13 Henry VIII (British Museum, *Add. Charters*, 7199).

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## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

450. *Eglwys Wen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 29 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 0''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 7''$ ).

At the spot indicated on the side of Moel maes y llech the Ordnance sheet marks the "site of a Church." There is now nothing visible but an irregularly-shaped depression in the soil, bearing evident signs of comparatively recent disturbances, with many small stones, mostly shale or spar, lying about on the surface. In a short paper read before the British Archaeological Association on the 16th January, 1901, (*Journal*, n.s., vii., 66) Mr. L. D. Jones of Bangor, continuing the account of his exploration of Buncyn Crwn (see No. 444 above), observes:—

I then crossed the stream [the Afon Fechan], and about a mile to the north [recte one-third of a mile south] of the farm house of Bryn-melyn came to where the people say the *Eglwys Wen* (White Church) stood. There was nothing to see above ground, except a large block of quartz, shown on the rough plan [accompanying the paper]. The place was a rectangular surface, 45 ft. by 15 ft., covered by tough skin of short grass of long growth. We made the cuttings shown on the sketch, and touched the foundations of a rubble wall at four points. Below the surface it was a dark, peaty mould to a depth of about 12 ins. or 18 ins., when we came to something more like a hard floor. The slabs marked on the sketch were found in the positions shown, and appeared like door or window sills; no signs of treading were seen on them, and the stone being soft it was sufficient evidence that they were not door-steps or floor-flags. The fragments of the vessel were found where shown, and the earth around it for a small compass had a darker colour. I send the contents of the vessel.

This report, though somewhat vague, makes it fairly clear that indications of a building of some sort were met with, but the unsatisfactory manner in which the excavation was conducted renders it impossible to conjecture what kind of building it could be. The name *Eglwys Wen*, if really ancient, is important; but the fact that Edward Lhuyd, while noting all the prominent antiquities of the parish, makes no mention of the name casts doubt on its genuineness.—Visited, 23rd May, 1913.

451. *Threshing floor (?)* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 29 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 35''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 25''$ ).

In continuation of his account of the exploration of Buncyn Crwn (see No. 444 above), Mr. L. D. Jones of Bangor has the following:—

About 30 or 40 yards from these hillocks [Buncyn Crwn and Buncyn Pennant groes] is an old track, said to be the Roman road, which I believe may be correct, as it makes for an old Roman station on the other side of the valley, called 'Caer-gai.'\* Below this road, and near the stream is a level, circular, hard floor, artificially formed from the face of the slope. The peasants call this the "Romans' Threshing-floor." On the northern circumference of the circle was a large block of stone imbedded in the marl; its upper surface was flat and fairly even, and cracked in every direction by the action of fire, I believe. It looked as if fire had been burning on it, or that it had been used as an anvil. Whatever this flat space was it was hard and well trodden, and the surface was covered with small flat stones.

The surface of the ground has been hollowed out to form a depression of horseshoe form of a total length of 55 feet. Stones underlie the turf in places. No further description can be given of this obviously artificial construction, and so far as enquiries extended it is not known locally by any specific name.—Visited, 4th October, 1913.

452. *Marked Stone* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 29 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 27''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 39' 36''$ ).

On the farm of Coed ladyr†, and in a field called Cae Gwndwn is a boulder which is popularly believed to bear some lettering, but the supposed characters are merely glacial striations.—Visited, 28th May, 1913.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

453. *Llyn Garneddwen, Tai Garneddwen, Ffordd Garneddwen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 28 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 59''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 41' 46''$ ).

These are place-names attached to a site on or near the shores of a pool on the Bala-Dolgelly road, pointing to the existence of a cairn of wide fame which has totally disappeared.—Visited, 12th July, 1913.

\* The trackway is part of Sarn Elen (see No. 449 above).

† In the extent of the county temp. Henry V (included in the volume called *The Record of Caernarvon*) the name of Coyde ladyr appears as that of a gavel of land of native tenure in Penaran. It may represent a personal name like Elidir or Wladur; cf. also the name Wleder (fem.) on one of the inscribed stones in Llanfihangel y Traethau churchyard (see parish of Penrhynedraeth, No. 512).

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454. *Dol garnedd ucha* and *issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. Sheet, Mer. 28 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 48' 45''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 43' 20''$ ).

Two adjacent fields on the farm of Cae Coch ; at the eastern end of the intervening hedge are the remains of what must have been a fine carnedd which stood immediately above a ford in the river Wnion. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 329 and 330—Visited, 12th July, 1913.

455. *Ciwt y garnedd bach* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 29 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 49' 17''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 37' 30''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 58. There are at present no indications of a cairn in the “patch” of land thus named. The meadow directly north-west is called Dol y maenllwyd. Both enclosures are situated on either side of the junction of Nant Bwlch y pawl with the river Twrch.—Visited, 4th July, 1913.

456. *Bryn y garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 21 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 51''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 42' 41''$ ).

In the middle of the north side of the field so named, situated slightly to the north-east of Castell Carn Doch, is a low elevation of about 26 feet, having several large stones imbedded in it. This probably represents a dismantled carnedd. Tithe Schedule, No. 534.—Visited 28th May, 1913.

457. *Cae'r garn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 29 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 0''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 39' 46''$ ).

This is the name given in the Tithe Schedule (No. 225) to the field now called ‘Cae garw’.—Visited, 28th May, 1913.

458. *Ty'n y pant bank* (6. in Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 29 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 51''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 39' 59''$ ).

Forming part of the enclosure to the yard of Ty'n y pant farm are the remains of a low semi-circular bank, 183 feet in length, the purpose of which is not clear. There may have been a completely circular enclosure before the erection of the house, but no traditions exist of such an earthwork.—Visited, 9th July, 1913.

459. *Bedd Hyto* or *Rico Gawr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 35 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 45''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 36' 45''$ ).

Edward Lhuyd has the following Note in his *Parochialia* (ii. 72) : “ Bedh Hyts [recte Hyto] Gawr ar y Dhol tan droed y Bwlch (sev Bwlch y groes) ym laen Kynlhwyd. Karnedd ydyw y Bedh ymma. Ywch ben y Bedh ymma mae man a elwir rhiw'r Barve.” Which may be translated : “ The grave of Hyts the giant in the meadow at the foot of the Bwlch (that is, the gap of the cross) at the head of [Nant] Cynllwyd. This grave is a cairn. Above the cairn is a place called Rhiw [the steep of] Barve\*.”

On the high land around Aran Benllyn, at an altitude of 1790 feet, and at the spot where the two parishes of Llanuwchlyn and Llanymawddwy (but just within the former), and also the two counties of Merioneth and Montgomery meet, and where an ancient trackway enters upon Bwlch y groes, is a carnedd which does not seem to have been opened, though it may have been denuded of some of its boulders.

Hyts for Hyto is a transcriber's error. Peniarth MS. 118—a manuscript of about the year 1600—as edited and translated in *Y Cymroddor* for 1917, p. 127, has (fo. 830) the following interesting folk-tale, which is doubtless the source of Edward Lhuyd's above-quoted note :—“ In the land of Merioneth, and close to Pen Aran in Penllyn, and under the place called Bwlch y Groes, is a grave of great dimensions where they say Lytta or Ritta or Ricca or Rithonwy or Itto Gawr was buried ; whose body some of the tribe of the giants removed from Eryri to somewhere near Mynydd Aran Fawr in Penllyn. This Ricca Gawr was the one with whom Arthur had fought and had killed in Eryri. And this giant made this for himself, a robe of the beards of the kings he had killed. And he sent to Arthur to order him to cut off his own (*i.e.*, Arthur's) beard and send it to him. And as Arthur was the chief of the kings, he would place his beard above the other beards as an honour to Arthur. And if he would not do that, he begged Arthur to come and fight him ; and the victorious of them

\* Barv or Barve may be a personal name. The substantive *barf* in Welsh means “ a beard,” and the signification of the word will be appreciated in connection with the story of Hyto or Rhitto Gawr's collection of beards.

## Parish of LLANUWCHLLYN.

to make a robe from the other's beard. And after they went to fight Arthur had the victory and he took the giant's beard and his robe. Itto Gawr [? Arthur] said he never met a second man as brave as that giant. And when Arthur had got that victory, in the second watch of the night they came . . . (Marginal Note)—And others relate the story thus, namely:—

Itto Gawr, calling himself king of Gwynedd in the time of Arthur, sent to Arthur to ask for his beard. And Arthur refused it to him. And on this they met on the top of a hill called Bwlch y Groes between Mowddwy and Penllyn in the land of Merioneth. And in the meeting, at Itto's wish, they cast their weapons away from them, to prove their strength. And at last by a struggle, and by rolling, they came to the plain, to the place called Blaen Gynllwyd, after plucking each other's beards. And in remembrance of that, that hill is called Rhiw y Barfau. And after that, they fought with their swords, in the place where Arthur killed the giant: in which place is Itto's grave to be seen to this day at the foot of the slope."

An allusion to the same folk-tale is made in *Ystoria Brenhinedd*, the Welsh version of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae*, where Arthur, after his encounter with a continental giant, relates to his knights the story of "Ricka gawr" whom he had slain "yneryri" (in [the forest of] Snowdon). Evans, ed. *Bruts*, p. 213.

Nat. Library of Wales, *Addit. MS. III B. pt. i. f. 46*, has the note that Rhiw y Barfau is near Towyn, where the word Towyn has been substituted for Bala.

460. *Glan y mynach* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 28 S.E.; 52° 48' 40", long. 3° 44' 17").

This is the name of a farm house on the left bank of the river Mynach which here forms the western boundary of the adjoining parish of Llanfachreth, where the monks of Ystrad Marchell (Strata Marcella) had possessions. The Mynach river is mentioned in several of the charters of the abbey.

461. *Clwt y person* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 21 S.E.; lat. 52° 51' 46", long. 3° 41' 13").

'The rector's patch'—a small piece of ground on which stands an abandoned cottage which obtained its name from some forgotten association with the parish church. It is not part of the glebe.

462. *Clogwyn yr Eglwys* (6 in. Ord. Surv. Sheet, Mer. 21. S.E.; lat. 52° 52' 18", long. 3° 44' 50").

A rocky eminence south of the river Lliw, which derives its name from its fancied resemblance to a church steeple.—Visited, 26th May, 1913.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

463. *Stone pestle*. A stone implement, 12 inches long, generally circular in section and rounded at each end, found in a drain on the farm of Caergai, and preserved there. Possibly a pestle or pounder.—Seen, 20th March, 1913.

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## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU)

464. *Garnedd Fawr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 13 N.E.; lat. 52° 56' 54", long. 3° 43' 10").

In a field called Cae garnedd fawr on the farm of Craig Ronw [Craig Goronwy] are the remains of what was doubtless a fine cairn which has been almost completely demolished. Some of the larger stones appear to have been broken, and the fragments lie scattered around. Tithe Schedule, No. 2135.—Visited, 30th May, 1913.

465. *Carnedd Iago* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 13 N.W.; lat. 52° 56' 56", long. 3° 48' 48").

See Parish of Trawsfynydd, No. 579A.

## Parish of LLANYCIL.

466. *Carreg enllan or henllan* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 13 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 4''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 46' 50''$ ).

On the moorland in the northern part of the parish, and at the spot above indicated, lie scattered the stones of a dismantled carnedd, some of which may have been used to form a small enclosure, 24 feet by 20 feet, which possibly was constructed when the *ffridd* was first allotted. The name given to the site on the Tithe map is 'Carreg henlle' and the *fridd* is styled 'Ffridd garreg enllan,' which the 6 in. Ordnance map marks 'Craig Henllan.'—Visited 5th July, 1913.

467. *Carnedd y bachgen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 13 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 45' 25''$ ).

On the mountain called Arenig fach, north-west of Llyn Arenig fach, is a circle of stones which represents all that is left of Carnedd y bachgen. The circle is about 33 feet in diameter. The stones of the carnedd have probably been employed to construct an ordnance cairn and circle about 100 feet to the west.—Visited, 11th July, 1913.

468. *Gwastadros Carnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 19''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 30''$ ).

The highest point of the upland called Gwastadros is called Moel y garnedd, and here stood a cairn of which only few remains are now visible. An Ordnance cairn which adjoins the site of the carnedd has been constructed out of its materials.—Visited, 20th May, 1913.

469. *Y garreg lwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 13''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 30''$ ).

In a meadow called 'cae garreg lwyd' on a farm known as 'Gwern newydd,' otherwise 'Gwern dyfrgi' is a hollow of about 20 feet diameter, at the bottom of which are several large blocks of stone presenting the appearance of a ruined carnedd. Tithe Schedule, No. 1350.—Visited, 24th May, 1913.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

470. *Cefn Bodig* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 33''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 20''$ ).

Of the former barn, said to be the old hall of Cefn Bodig, the residence of the Vaughans of that place, only one gable remains; the main part of the building was pulled down and rebuilt about a quarter of a century ago. The pitch of the gable is steep, and roughly constructed of unsquared stone. The occupant spoke of the beauty of "the ceiling" of the old barn. John Vaughan of Cefn Bodig died in 1671, and was buried in Llanycil churchyard; and the house is placed by Edward Lhuyd as fourth in importance in the parish. It is also named as 'Tyddyn Cefn Bodig' in 1592 (Pub. Record Office: *Land Revenue Misc. Books*, 34 Eliz., vol. 236).—Visited, 5th July, 1913.

471. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.W.). Ded: St. Beuno. Diocese of St. Asaph; archdeaconry of Wrexham; rural deanery of Penllyn; townships of Maestron, Ismynydd, Uwchmynydd, Streflyn.\*

The parish church occupies a beautiful position on the western margin of Bala lake at the point where the streamlet called Aber gwenwynfeirch enters it. The church consists of a single chamber, north porch, south vestry, and western bell-cote. The building has been so thoroughly restored that hardly any trace of the original church remains except the walls. The oldest piece of church furniture consists of

\* The proper form of Streflyn is Istreflyn, 'the lower tref of the lake.' The name Llystreflyn occurs in Pub. Rec. Office: *Land Rev. Misc. Books*, vol. 236; but this may be an error, for Edward Lhuyd about the year 1700 does not give such a name amongst the houses of the parish. Maestron is so called in the same document, as also in the Survey of 7 Henry V (Rec. Caern., 262); but in Pub. Rec. Office: *Rentals and Surveys*, 24 Eliz., 91, 173, it is Maestrave (Maes-tref). The Is and Uwch mynydd refer to the Arenigs. Bedwarian was formerly also a township of Llanycil parish.

**Parish of LLANYCIL.**

one bench-end rudely inscribed in front "I. Forbes esq., Cefn Bodig, 1794," and at the back, in more beautiful letters, "Anno Domini, 1657, I.V." [John Vaughan]. The baluster railings at the east end are of the mid 18th century, and let into the rail is the burial offering-tray, dated 1759. The churchyard is rectangular, and was large even before a recent extension. The two oldest gravestones that could be deciphered are dated 1649 and 1667. On the south side of the west end is a fine tomb to John Vaughan of Cefn Bodig, and immediately east of this is the tomb of Catherine, daughter of John Lloyd of Rhagatt. East of the church repose the remains of the Rev. Thomas Charles of Bala, Dr. Lewis Edwards of Bala, and his son Dr. Thomas Charles Edwards, the first principal of the University College of Wales. There are several ancient yews. In the churchyard wall, close to the entrance, are a few semi-circular stones which are said to have been the steps of the former cross and later dial. Nearly opposite the church are the old rectory, tithe barn and parish schools. Edward Lhuyd has the note "there is an occasional brick [Roman, from Caergai] in the walls of this church and in those of the churches of Llangower and Llanuwchllyn" (*Parochialia*, ii, 67); nothing of the sort is now visible at any of the churches named.—Visited, 12th May, 1913.

*Hist. Dioc. St. Asaph* (1912), 120; Glynne 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1885, V, ii, 36.  
[Illustrated, fig. 122.]

**DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—BRIDGES).**

472. *Old Bridge* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 13 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 32''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 46' 50''$ ).

About 100 yards above the present Pont tai hirion is a much older bridge of single span which is always called 'the Roman bridge' but is most probably of the Elizabethan period. The arch is 16 feet wide, and rests on vertical piers built of large boulders; its extreme breadth is 8 feet 6 inches. The track leading to it from the present Festiniog road is roughly paved with large stones, and the course of this trackway can be traced at first in a paved causeway, then in a boggy path running between two lines of stones; still further northwards it becomes a grassy road between banks which have an outside width of 7 feet, and the trackway of 4 feet. It completely disappears in the direction of Yspytty Ifan, by the Hospitallers of which place both trackway and bridge were doubtless constructed.—Visited, 3rd July, 1913.

NOTE.—This is almost certainly the bridge mentioned by Edward Lhuyd as "Pont Rhyd y Porthnyn [for Porthmyn] ym Miknit [Migneint] ty hwnt i Tai hirion yng hylch tervyne Yspthy, Trawsfynydd a Phestiniog" (*Parochialia*, ii, 65).

**DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).**

473. *Old Road* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 13 S.E., 14 S.W., 22 N.W., 22 N.E.).

An early trackway, which is usually spoken of as a Roman road, but is certainly not one, is struck at the back of Arenig railway station (13 S.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 15''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 44' 22''$ ), diverging from the old Bala-Festiniog road at that spot. Going east it sometimes runs between two banks, and at other places is a mere track. It crosses the small stream called Derfel at Pont aber Derfel and passes about 150 yards east of Bryn Ifan, where as a grassy track between banks 7 feet wide it crosses from the south to the north of the road; thence at the back of Minffordd (14 S.W., lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 46''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 40' 37''$ ), and to some cottages at Rhyd ucha. Ultimately it passes from north to south, crosses the road once more, skirts Ty'n y ffordd and Ffridd fedw arian, and enters the town of Bala by Castle Street, itself a narrow lane. It formed the regular way of communication between Bala and Trawsfynydd.—Traversed, 8th July, 1913.

**DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).**

474. *Ffynnon Beuno* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 32''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 36' 18''$ ).

In a field called Cae Mwnog bach, a few hundred yards south-west of the town of Bala, is Ffynnon Beuno, rising in a sunken rectangular enclosure of stone

## Parish of LLANYCIL.

12 feet by 9 feet, with six steps at one corner. The water is fairly deep and the overflow is copious ; where it crossed the main road the roadway was roughly paved, hence the name 'Pensarn Road.' There are no traces of buildings over or immediately around the well. The hilly district to the south-west is called Bronydd Beuno.—Visited, 19th May, 1913.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORICAL OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

475. *Eglwys Glominog, Moel yr Eglwys* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 13 S.E.).

In Panton MS. 7, now in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, is an abstract by the Rev. Evan Evans of certain manuscripts of Mr. Edward Lluyd formerly in the Sebright Collection. One of these manuscripts enumerates among the wonders of Wales, "Eglwys Glominog on the summit of Arenig fawr where there is a chasm with great gusts of wind issuing out of it ; a stone thrown into it is heard for a quarter of an hour" (*Report on MSS. in the Welsh Language*, part iii, p. 807). This evidently refers to some interesting natural phenomenon, though it is difficult to understand how it received the name of Eglwys Glominog, whatever that may precisely mean. However, Stukeley in his *Itinerarium Curiosam* figures a most imposing structure as existing on the summit of Arenig fawr at 2,800 feet above sea level. The idea of such a building on such a site is absurd.

NOTE.—Much confusion seems to have existed in the minds of English topographical writers of the 17th-18th century between the Arans (Aran Benllyn and Aran Fawddwy) and the Arenigs (Arenig fawr and fach). It appears to have started with Speed, who upon his map of 1610 styles Arenig fawr Raraunfaur, that is, Yr Aran fawr. With the Arenigs are associated certain ecclesiastical names, such as 'Moel yr Eglwys' and 'Clogwyn yr Eglwys,' and these appear to be the sole foundation for Stukeley's monstrous fiction.

476. *Ffridd y maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 44''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 39' 28''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 1643. An enclosure now divided into two ; both contain boulders, one of which may have given the place its name.—Visited, 14th May, 1913.

477. *Ffridd y maen*, and *Ffridd y maen pella* (6 in. Ord Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 14''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 39' 0''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, Nos. 1653-4. Two enclosures containing boulders.—Visited, 24th May, 1913.

478. *Ffridd maen llwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 5''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 53''$ ).

In the field so named, which is situated on the east bank of the rivulet called Nant Crithyll, is a fine boulder over 9 feet in height, with breadth at base of 14 feet. Tithe Schedule, No. 1376. Two closely contiguous fields, one called 'Ffridd maen llwyd' (Tithe Schedule, No. 1355), and the other 'Cae garreg llwyd' (*ib.* No. 1350) probably received their names from their proximity to the same maen llwyd.—Visited, 24th May, 1913.

479. *Porth y maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 14 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 48''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 40' 8''$ ).

A field on the farm of Bryn newydd which probably takes its name from a boulder, 5 feet by 4 feet, by 3 feet 6 inches high, standing towards the eastern end of the field. Tithe Schedule, No. 1564.—Visited, 24th May, 1913.

480. *Cae garreg llwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 22 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 51''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 39' 20''$ ).

A field on the farm of Cyffdy, where it was stated that a stone of great size was blown up about half a century ago. Tithe Schedule, No. 418. —Visited, 20th May, 1913.

481. *Maen* (6 in. Ord Surv. sheet, Mer, 21 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 12''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 41'' 10''$ ).

On the farm of Meini hirion, and at the spot indicated, the original one-inch map marks an antiquity. Mr Robert Lloyd of Dol llychwyn informed the Inspecting

**Parish of LLANYCIL.**

Officer that he remembered this stone, the sole survivor of a circle, being destroyed about 40 years ago; while Mr. Thomas of Cloddiau said that three stones were within recent memory standing on the site.—Visited, 20th May, 1913.

482. *Gwern Hevin, Boch y rhaiadr, Dol y myneich* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheets, Mer. 22 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 50''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 38' 40''$ ; 13 S.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 31''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 42' 55''$ ; 13 S.W., lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 13''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 45' 44''$ ).

These places formed part of the possessions of the monastery of Basingwerk in Penllyn, being of the grant of Owen of Porkington, and are named in the charters of that house.

NOTE.—In the *Taxatio* of Pope Nicolas, A.D. 1291, the property of the monks of Basingwerk in Penllyn is called “the grange of Kellyng,” a name connected with the river Celyn. The first *Ministers’ Account* (Pub. Record Office) of the dissolved monastery refers to a demise in 1523 of all the Penllyn property of the monks to Robert ap Rice, bachelor, on condition that he should erect three suitable houses thereon (*Journal Flintshire Hist. Society*, 1919–20, p. 60). Under this covenant was built the first house of Gwern Hevin, which stood slightly to the south-east of the present residence. The house of Boch y rhaiadr which, though structurally renewed, still retains some of the ancient timbers, was probably erected at the same period.

**DIVISION VII (FINDS).**

482A. *Bronze Celt mould.* In the year 1912 there was discovered at Llwyn mawr, Parc, about 5 miles to the west of Bala, the bronze matrix of a mould for casting looped palstaves. It is now in the British Museum.

**Parish of LLANYMAWDDWY.****DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).**

483. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 35 S.W.). Ded: St. Tydecho. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Cyfeiliog.\*

The church, which consists of nave, chancel, south porch and western bell-gable, has been so thoroughly restored that all the fittings, with the exception of the font, are modern, though the structure doubtless stands upon the original foundations. The chancel is divided from the nave by a plain pointed arch, chamfered but destitute of mouldings. The bowl of the font is an octagon, decorated with scallop design around the upper portion of the basin, and finished off midway with a plain band. This, perhaps, dates from the 14th century. It stands on a low pedestal of later date. There is an ancient yew tree at the east end of the churchyard. The two oldest tombstones noticed are dated 1705 and 1706, respectively.—Visited, 25th April, 1914.

[Illustration of font, fig. 24.]

**DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).**

484. *Llwybr Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 34 S.E.).

According to the statement of Mr. John Hughes of Felin Newydd, Llanfachreth, who spent his childhood at Blaen Cowarch (lat.  $52^{\circ} 45' 20''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 42' 0''$ ), the trackway passing Blaen Cowarch and proceeding thence in the direction of Dinas Mawddwy is known as Llwybr Elen. He remembered a hole by the side of the trackway, a little to the north of Blaen Cowarch, which was known as Sawd Elen, ‘Elen’s Heel.’

**DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).**

485. *Carnedd y Meini Gwnion* [? *Gwynion*] (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 34 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 44' 57''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 41' 22''$ ).

There stood on the farm of Ty’n twll, Cwm Cowarch, a low cairn partly composed of white quartz, until about ten years ago when it was completely cleared away.

\* The townships are given by Mr. Robert Vaughan (d. 1666) as Crom [Cwm] Cewydd, Cowarch, Llannerch Fyda and Pennant.

## Parish of LLANYMAWDDWY.

It was said that nothing was discovered, or at any rate noticed, at the time of the clearance. The site is still discernible.—Visited, 23rd June, 1914.

486. *Croes Lwyd, the holy or the grey cross* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 39 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 42' 15''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 40' 2''$ ).

This is now the name of a farm (Tithe Schedule, No. 56), where there is no appearance or tradition of the existence of a cross.—Visited, 5th October, 1914.

487. *Bwlch y Groes, the gap of the cross* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 35 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 47' 23''$ - $45''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 36' 45''$ ).

This is the natural pass between the hill country of Merionethshire and that of north-west Montgomeryshire. It must always have formed the line of communication between the districts, and there doubtless stood here a cross or calvary. (See Llanuwchlyn, No. 459.)

488. *Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 39 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 6''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 39' 48''$ ).

Now the name of a small farm (Tithe Schedule, No. 44), and probably at no time of archaeological significance.

489. *Inscribed Stone*. According to an entry on the fly-leaf of a printed volume of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia* in the British Museum (press mark, 872, i, 25) —one of a series of notes written by the antiquary Lewis Morris (d. 1765)

relating to inscribed stones then existing in various parts of Wales, there was in the parish of Llan y mawddwy a stone that now is not to be found. The inscription is shown in the accompanying illustration. It is not improbable that the stone may have been worked into some building, or buried in a wall with the inscribed face hidden from sight, and a happy accident may at any time bring it to light.

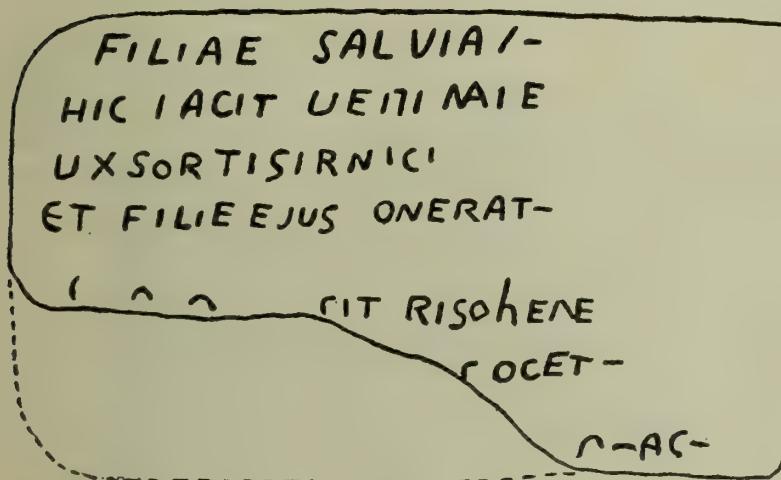


Fig. 123.

Another copy of the inscription will be found in *Add. MSS. 67A*, fo. 272 of the National Library of Wales.

#### DIVISION VII (FINDS).

491. *Wooden Bowl*. In the year 1793 the *European Magazine* (vol. 23, p. 47) drew the attention of antiquaries to a peculiar oaken vessel which had been discovered three years previously in a turbaries in this parish. The correspondent writes as follows :—

I have the pleasure of sending you a Drawing and some account of an Antiquity, a genuine unique of most uncommon curiosity. It was found in a bog near Dinas Mowddwy in Merionethshire, possibly in old times occupied by some great forest, and near the spot of some building, of which there is not the least vestige left.

It is formed of a massy piece of knotty oak, rude on the sides as in the state of nature ; the top and bottom levelled, seemingly with no better instrument than the axe. On the upper part is a large oval hollow, capable of containing about six quarts. A little beyond this is a superficial hollow of small diameter, with an artless foliage with round berries fixed to the leaves cut on each side. Immediately beyond a narrow slope had been formed, on which is cut in large letters the word *Athrywyn*, which Davies interprets *pugnantes et discordantes se jungere*. *Athrywyn* is a word still in use, but not commonly ; but in the same sense as that given in the Welsh Dictionary. The diameter of the great hollow, 11 inch ; depth,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  do. ; diameter of the lesser hollow, 3 do. ; depth, about 1 do. ; length of the log, 1 foot 10 do. ; thickness, near 10 do.

That this was a very ancient Font I have no sort of doubt : the large cavity contained the water, the lesser the salt, which to this day is used in the Roman Catholic Church in its ceremony of baptism. . . .

## Parish of LLANYMAWDWY.

This Font seems made of the material next at hand—the rude block cut out of the next oak. I do not recollect any Font made of this material, and therefore look on it as a curiosity worthy the attention of the public.

It is in fine preservation, owing to the bituminous peat or turf, which so well preserves the fossil trees, the date of which may boast of far higher antiquity than this venerable morsel.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant, A. B.

20th November, 1790.

About the same period, Richard Lloyd, author of *Beaumaris Bay* (1790), describes the article as

formed of a massy piece of knotty oak, rude on the sides as in the state of nature; the top and bottom bevelled seemingly with no better than the axe. On the upper part is a large hollow basin, capable of containing about six quarts. A little beyond this is a superficial hollow of small diameter, with an artless foliage with round berries fixed to the leaves, cut on each side; and immediately above a narrow slope has been formed, on which is cut in large letters the word ATHRYWYN, which Dr. Davies interprets 'Pugnantes et discordantes sejungere.' The diameter of the larger hollow is 11 ins., depth 3½ ins., diameter of the less hollow, 3 ins., depth about 1 inch. Length of the log 1 ft. 10 ins.; thickness, near 10 ins. That this was a very ancient font I have no doubt.\*

The object was exhibited to the Archaeological Institute in the year 1872, when opinions were divided as to whether it was a font or a mortar, but no doubt was expressed as to the accuracy of the reading of the inscription upon it. It was illustrated in the *Journal of the Association* (xiii, 292), and copied thence into *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1872 (IV, iii, 258), when Mr. E. L. Barnwell took it to be a wooden mortar. In the succeeding volume of *Arch. Camb.* (p. 103) Mr. Albert Way, while ascribing it to the 12th or 13th centuries, expressed the view that there were no certain grounds for the supposition that it was destined for sacred uses.

The Cambrian Archaeological Association at its annual meeting of 1919 passed a resolution that Lord Mostyn, who was then said to have the object at Mostyn Hall, should be invited to restore the font, to which request (according to a letter in *Arch. Camb.* for January, 1920) his lordship has quite accurately replied that there is no such thing as a font at Mostyn Hall.

The subject of this exhibition of misdirected zeal would appear to be a domestic utensil intended for pounding or triturating fairly soft substances, probably in culinary operations. The simple but tasteful carving is almost certainly not later than the 17th century, and it is doubtful whether the supposed lettering is intended for anything more than simple scorings. If they are letters they certainly do not read Athrywyn. This object is (or lately was) at Mostyn Hall.

## Parish of MAENTWROG.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION C (RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURES—ROMAN).

The following is contributed by Professor R. C. Bosanquet, F.S.A., a Commissioner.

492. *Tomen y mur*—Roman Fort (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 S.W.; lat. 52° 55' 46", long. 3° 55' 35").

[Bibliography: *Cambrian Register*, i (1795), 191; Pennant, *Tours*, ed. 1783, ii, 103; Fenton, *Tours*, pp. 44, 124; Sir R. Colt Hoare, *Giraldus Cambrensis*, i, p. cliii; Lewis, *Top. Dict. of Wales*, ed. 1845, ii, 188; *Arch. Camb.*, 1850, p. 327; 1868, p. 474; 1871, pp. 190—202; 1878, p. 28 (intaglio); 1884, p. 334 (with very inaccurate sketch plan); 1888, p. 266 (with drawing of amphitheatre); 1919, p. 553; Haverfield, *Mil. Aspects of Roman Wales* (*Trans. Hon. Soc. Cymrodon*, 1908-9), pp. 38—43; *Journal Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, xxiv, 117; xxvii, 278.]

This fort was placed at an unusual height above sea-level on the eastern side of the broad valley, itself some 700 feet in elevation, which extends from Festiniog southwards, narrowing into a winding gorge as it descends to Dolgelly. It stands on a projecting shoulder of the great massif crowned by the two peaks of Arenig Fawr and Arenig Fach, at a point slightly above the 900 feet contour line, commanding a wide view to north, west and south. Maentwrog Road railway station is 1½ miles to the north-west, Trawsfynydd village 2 miles to the south. Its ancient name is unknown, for the name Heriri Mons is no older than the "Itinerary of Richard of

\* It is probable that Mr. Lloyd was the writer of the notice in the *European Magazine*.

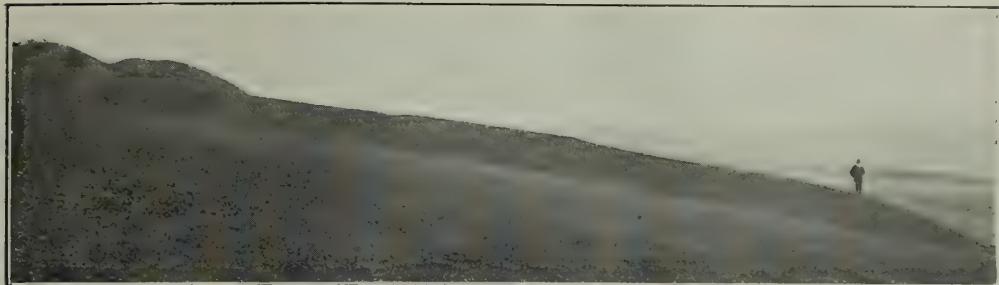


FIG. 124. MAENTWROG: THE ROMAN FORT OF TOMEN Y MUR (No. 492); vallum, west side.



FIG. 125. MAENTWROG: THE ROMAN FORT OF TOMEN Y MUR; general view from south, showing later mound.



FIG. 126. MAENTWROG: THE ROMAN FORT OF TOMEN Y MUR; later mound within Roman camp.



FIG. 127. PENNAL: THE ROMAN FORT OF CEFN CAER (No. 506); south-west angle of vallum.



## Parish of MAENTWROG.

Cirencester" forged by Charles Julius Bertram about 1757; it was based on the name Ereri given to Snowdon by Nennius and later writers.

Bertram made Heriri Mons the first station on a supposed road from Segontium to Viriconium; Sir Richard Hoare, who believed the Itinerary to be an authentic document, attached the name to Tomen y mur and gave it lasting currency, as he did to the "Via Julia," another of Bertram's figments; from Hoare's *Giraldus Cambrensis* it has passed into the Ordnance maps and many books of reference.

The name Tomen y mur describes what is now the most conspicuous feature of the site, a great medieval castle-mound built within the Roman enclosure which provided a ready-made bailey. The earliest Welsh name for the position appears to be Mur castell which is found in an early 15th century copy of the *Mabinogi* of Math ab Mathonwy. This may be translated literally as "the Wall of the Castle," probably meaning "the walled castle"; and it appears to be intended to refer rather to the medieval than to the Roman fort.

The longer axis of the fort lies from north-west to south-east. The north-west end occupies the high end of the ridge; the south-east falls away and gains some shelter from the west wind. It measured about 500 by 385 feet, nearly 4½ acres. The outer walls, built of rubble concrete faced with small coursed masonry, were exposed at several places in 1850 and 1868; part of a tower flanking the eastern gateway can still be seen, but is in danger of collapse; it is built in courses 5 to 6½ inches high, with stones up to 16 inches long. Part of another gateway was formerly to be seen on the south-west side where the Ordnance sheet records a "cellar." A wood-cut in *Arch. Camb.*, 1871, p. 202, shows the jamb of the gate consisting of four courses, and a gutter skirting it. The ditch can be recognised; Dr. Haverfield noticed evidence of a second ditch.

The pottery seen in the farm house during the past 12 years included figured Samian of the end of the 1st century, and part of a plain bowl of a form which belongs to the second half of the 2nd century after Christ.\*

The supposed "amphitheatre," 300 yards to the north of the fort, was first noticed by Fenton, "a circular enclosure formed by a rampart of earth, probably some place for Roman games" (*Tour*, p. 44). The diameter must originally have been about 100 feet, and the bank of earth and chippings still rises 11 feet above the flat interior. A tramway embankment, never completed, which runs up to and partly through it, dates from about 1860, when a neighbouring quarry was in working order. At one time the enclosure seems to have been used as a pond, perhaps working a mill contemporary with the motte and fed from a stream which passes it, but the great height of the banks suggests that this was not its original purpose. The measurements are given in *Arch. Camb.*, 1871, IV, ii, 86; internal diameter 81 feet; mound 21 feet wide, 10 to 12 feet high.

"In the stone hedges which intersect the area of the camp we found," says Fenton, "great quantities of true Roman brick." These are now most abundant in the low ground to the south-east, near the stream, where desultory excavation has exposed portions of a building which was probably the bath-house, with a wall standing twelve courses high. Bricks and flue-tiles were also found in a pit dug halfway between the stream and the south-east gate.

Tomen y mur has yielded ten inscribed stones. Inscriptions from Tomen y mur are preserved in the mansion at Tan y bwlc'h and in Harlech Castle. They are as follows:—

1. **SXXXIX** to be completed (pede)s, or possibly (passu)s xxxix, "thirty-nine feet" or "paces."
2. **>AND** within ansate frame. **Centuria And . . . p(edes) PXXXIX** "The company commanded by And . . . (built) thirty-nine feet." *Lysons' Archaeologia*, xiv, 276.
3. **>IVLI** **Centuria Juli Mans(ueti).**  
**MANS** "The company commanded by Julius Mansuetus (built this)."

These three stones have long been built into a terrace wall at Tan y bwlc'h. Westwood (*Arch. Camb.*, 1856, p. 141), and Hübner following him (C. I. L., vii, 143) treated them as one. Haverfield, *Eph. Epigr.*, ix, 1020—24, corrected this mistake.

\* See *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, London, 2 Ser., xxi, plate facing p. 279, fig. 11, one of the "Pudding-pan Rock types."

## Parish of MAENTWROG.

4. **JMARC** within ansate frame.

In 1804 Fenton saw the stone "at the east end in the wall" of Maentwrog church and read **JMARC** (*Tour*, p. 45). Hoare omits the **J** (*Gir. Cambr.* i, clv), though he calls the inscription centurial, and his version is given in *Eph. Epigr.*, iv, 669, and *Trans. Cymmr.*, 1908-9, p. 41. The Secretary to this Commission has found in the British Museum a rough sketch (fig. 128) taken about the year 1700 by Mr. Edward Lhuyd or one of his correspondents which confirms Fenton, and shows that the inscription had an ansate frame with space for a second line.

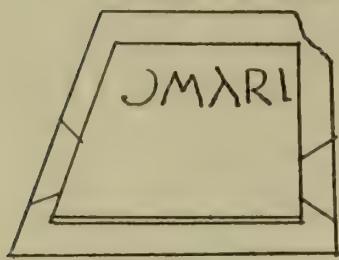


Fig. 128.

5. **JPERPE**

TVI

P·XX

**Q**(enturia) Perpetui p(edes) viginti.

6. **JIVLI** **Q**(enturia) Juli Perpetui p(edes) viginti unum.  
PERPETUI "The company of Julius Perpetuus (built) 20 feet."  
P·XXI

C. I. L., vii, 144; *Eph. Epigr.*, ix, 1020.

7. **JPERPETUI**  
PXXII

C. I. L., vii, 1339A; *Eph. Epigr.*, ix, 1021.8. **JIVLI**

PERPETUI

P·XXXIX

*Eph. Epigr.*, vii, 852; ix, 1022.9. **JPERPE**

PXX

*Eph. Epigr.*, vii, 853; ix, 1023.10. **PR** (

Lysons, *Archæologia*, xiv, 276; Westwood, *Arch. Camb.*, 1856, p. 141; C. I. L., vii, 145. Fragment from the last line of a large inscribed slab; traces of two letters **JL** were formerly visible in the line above; bold lettering with a rich moulding below.

These six stones, some of which were formerly in Miss Roberts's garden at Maentwrog, are now walled up in Harlech Castle. Photograph in *Trans. Cymmr.*, 1908-9, p. 41.

Of the ten inscriptions the first nine record the building of stretches of wall, probably the rampart of the fort, by various centuries of an unnamed corps. The tenth is part of a more important monument which may have ended with the name of a Governor of the province, *legatus pro praetore*. It may have been placed above a gate of the fort, or over the entrance to the *principia*.

Another inscription from Tomen y mur is a tombstone, of later date, but pre-Christian.

D M  
BARRECT  
CARANTEI

D(is) M(anibus)  
Barret(i)  
Carantei

Westwood, *Lapid. Wall.*, pp. 156, 240, and pl. lxxviii, 4; *Eph. Epigr.*, vii, 854. Westwood received his copy from Mr. W. W. E. Wynne of Peniarth.—Visited, 12th April, 1920, and on three previous occasions.

[Illustrated, figs. 124-6.]

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (CASTLE MOUNDS WITH ENCLOSURES).

492A. *Tomen y mur Mound Castle* (as preceding article).

Within the walls of the Roman fort described in the preceding article, a mound of the ordinary type of Norman motte has been formed. The mound is placed about midway in the north-western side of the Roman enclosure where the interior of the camp reaches its maximum height, the remainder of the space forming an admirable bailey, with its exterior ditch. The mound is about 30 feet high and 300

## Parish of MAENTWROG.

feet in circumference. The summit is uneven owing to the trenchings and diggings of treasure-hunters.—Visited, 12th April, 1920.

NOTE.—The mound at Tomen y mur was probably thrown up by William Rufus in the course of his inroad into Wales in 1095 or 1097. Professor J. Loth, in his edition of the *Mabinogion* (i, 200), dealing with the episode of the marriage of Lleu and Blodeuwedd as related in the tale of Math ab Mathonwy, translates a passage into French thus: "On lui bâtit une cour à l'endroit qu'on appelle Mur y Castell, dans la partie escarpée d'Ardudwy," where Mur y Castell unquestionably stands for the later style of Tomen y mur; and it is important to observe that, while Lleu and the other personages of the story belong to a far earlier period of Cymric historic romance, the reference to the building of a *llys* at Mur y Castell is made as to a real event which was popularly remembered and spoken of when the story was reduced to writing.

Moreover, the Welsh life of Gruffydd ap Cynan (d. 1137), written about a century and a half after that date, states specifically that King William (Rufus) "proposed to cut down all the woods and groves, so that there might not be shelter nor defence for the men of Gwynedd henceforth. Thereupon he encamped, and he pitched his tents first in Mur Castell, certain of the Welsh being his guides" (*Hanes G. ap Cynan*, ed. Arthur Jones, p. 141). This was the expedition of 1097, and it is highly probable that he had as his objective the Roman castrum which at that time may have been in good defensive condition. Once at Mur Castell Rufus' first care would be to throw up the usual Norman motte castle. Some years later (1114 or 1121) William's successor, Henry I, is said to have invaded Gruffydd's possessions "and encamped in Mur Castell" (*ib.* p. 153); but a peace speedily followed, and Henry's occupancy of the mound-castle ceased.

Soon afterwards the English hold of Ardudwy appears to have been relaxed, and during the successful career of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, to be altogether relinquished; and sometime within this period the wooden castle on the mound would seem to have been destroyed and not replaced. There is no record of its later occupation by a Welsh chieftain, and it appears to have been as completely disregarded by the Welsh as the Roman castrum had been.

With the building of Harlech Castle, and the foundation of the borough of Bala with its mound castle, the military importance of Mur Castell would decline, and no reference to it is to be found in the various surveys of the county or Ministers' Accounts. The later development of a castle-mound is towards the headship of a manor, where the descendant of a Welsh chief or English baron posed as the lord of a semi-feudal manor, keeping his little court in the wooden castle on the mound, until, driven by the increasingly-ruinous condition of his dwelling, he forsook it for a more convenient residence at its foot.\* Mur Castell is an exception to the general rule, but why it should have become so is by no means clear. The name Tomen y mur could only have come into being with the construction of the mound-castle, but, as pointing to the most obvious feature of the position, this form would soon displace the earlier Mur Castell.

[Illustrated, fig. 126.]

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

493. *Cynfal Fawr* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W.; lat. 52° 56' 50", long. 3° 55' 50").

This is the birthplace of Morgan Llwyd o Wynedd, the mystic, preacher and writer of the Commonwealth period. One portion of the house is undoubtedly anterior to his time (1619—1659): it is a small hall, which has been cut across by the insertion of a more recent loft. A massive oak coupling rises directly from the floor, and is bound together above the loft by two tie-beams. Below the lower of these beams is a curved brace. Above the loft the thickness of each coupling is 15 inches; below, and to the ground, one of the couplings retains its original stoutness, but the other has been reduced to give more space. Outside the gable of this part of the house occurs the inscription 'Caleb Lloyd 1660': Caleb Lloyd was one of Morgan Llwyd's sons. The house possesses no other feature of interest. It was licensed in 1669 as an Independent meeting house.—Visited, 4th September, 1913.

494. *Tyddyn du* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 S.W.; lat. 52° 56' 18", long. 3° 56' 55").

The house and barn of Tyddyn du adjoin, forming one long rectangle. The barn is original, but the house in which Archdeacon Edmund Prys (the author of the metrical version of the Psalter in Welsh) spent his latest days, has been rebuilt. Over the front door is inserted a slab inscribed with the date 1624, the archdeacon's coat of arms, and his initials.—Visited, 11th September, 1914.

495. *Melin ty'n nant* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 S.W.; lat. 52° 56' 45", long. 3° 56' 49").

In this mill, now known as Melin Tyddyn du, is a long oaken beam above one of the doorways, in which is sunk a small panel bearing the letters IOIO of the early 17th century. They are believed to represent an impossible date, and to denote the year when the beam was set up, but are probably the initials of some such names as John Owen, Jane Owen.—Visited, 11th September, 1914.

\* See the admirable illustration of Rug mound and later house, fig. 46.

## Parish of MAENTWROG.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

496. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 N.E.). Ded: St. Mary the Virgin.\* Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

"The nave of this church was built on the old foundations, with the addition of chancel, tower, and spire, A.D. 1896": so runs an inscription over the south porch. The fittings are also new. A tablet to the memory of Thomas Llwyd of Llandecwyn and Elizabeth his wife, 1703, is doubtless of the former church. In the churchyard are three ancient yews, one of 18 feet, another of 16 feet girth at the ground level. The oldest gravestone noticed was dated 1691.

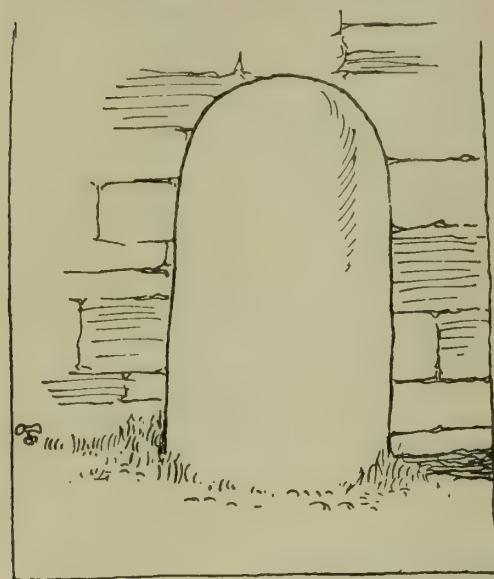


Fig. 129.

*Maen Twrog.* Outside the western end of the church is a sandstone pillar with rounded head and corners, 3 feet 11 inches high, shape slightly tapering, with girth at mid-height of 5 feet 10 inches, and breadth varying from 1 foot to 2 feet 3 inches. No ancient tradition attaches to this stone. It is said that it formerly stood on a different site, but has quite certainly occupied its present position for many years.—Visited, 4th September, 1913.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

497. *Sarn Elen* and *Ffordd Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 S.W., 12 N.W., 11 S.E.).

The presence of a Roman station at Tomen y Mur in this parish implies a road leading from the station in at least two directions. The nearest stations are Caergai to the south-west, and Segontium (Carnarvon) and Canovium (Caerhun) to the north; roads must have linked these stations with Tomen y Mur. The general direction of the road from Tomen y Mur northwards towards Caerhun is fairly clear. Within the parish of Maentwrog it must have passed in a practically straight course, crossing the Cynfal at or in the immediate vicinity of Pont Newydd, and making for Canovium along the valley of the Machno. Directly after crossing the Cynfal it continued along the open ground in the parish of Festiniog, passing between the mountain passes of Gamallt on the east and Manod on the west into the small valley of Cwm Penamnen, when it enters Carnarvonshire.

Another ancient road, but one without any claim to consideration as being Roman, is a still extant trackway from Tafarn helig, past Llwyn, to Felenrhod fawr.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

498. *Ffynnon Fair* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 42''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 10''$ ).

This well is situated on sloping ground about 80 yards south-east of the church, and north of a terrace called Bron Fair. It is now enclosed in a square slate cistern, and supplies the neighbouring houses.—Visited, 22nd August, 1914.

\* According to Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*; but the Rev. A. W. Wade Evans in his *Parochiale Wallicorum* (*Y Cymroddor*, xvii, 97), gives the dedication as St. Twrog.

## Parish of MAENTWROG.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

499. *Pulpud Huw Llwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 57' 7''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 44''$ ).

A natural mass of rock rising from the bed of the river Cynfal to a height of 12 feet. It derives its interest from its traditional connection with Huw Llwyd of Cynfal Fawr, soldier and poet, who flourished at the commencement of the 17th century, and was a kinsman of the more celebrated Morgan Llwyd o Wynedd.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

500. *Bronze Palstave*. In the British Museum is a bronze looped palstave, said to have been found near Tomen y Mur, and presented to the Museum by Sir A. W. Franks.

[Illustrated, fig. 151 (6).]

500A. *Bronze Weapons*. A small hoard of bronze weapons, said to have been found in Cwm Moch in the parish of Maentwrog,\* are in the British Museum.

They were discovered about the year 1809; four of them are illustrated in *Archæologia*, xvi, 365, and in *Proc. Soc. Antiq., n.s.*, 1918, xx, 171 (W. J. Hemp).

[Illustrated, fig. 150.]

## Parish of MALLWYD.†

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

501. *Pennant Tigi ucha* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 38 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 43' 47''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 45' 23''$ ).

At the mouth of Hirgwm, 'the long dingle,' and on the left bank of the river Cerist, is the farm house of Pennant Tigi ucha. It is well built of good stone, and in the middle of its north front is a round-headed doorway with chamfered jambs which cannot be older than the beginning of the 17th century. Several of the windows are built up. The house is a parallelogram, having now one story above the ground floor. It has the appearance of having been altered about the end of the 16th century. The monks of Ystrad Marchell (Strata Marcella, near Welshpool, co. Montgomery) had extensive pasture lands at Pennant Tigi granted to them by Gwenwynwyn prince of Powys, and confirmed to them in 1287 by Edward I. There can be little doubt that the present farmstead occupies the site of a grange belonging to that abbey.—Visited, 18th April, 1914.

NOTE.—Contiguous to the farm of Pennant Tigi are Cwm yr eglwys and Moel cwm yr eglwys, two place-names which bear witness to monastic ownership of the district in the mediæval period. By an unfortunate mischance the late Archdeacon Thomas in a paper printed in *Arch. Camb.*, 1873, (IV, iv, 365) has identified the lands granted by a charter of Elis ap Madoc to the monks of Strata Marcella in the year 1183 with the lands of the monks of Basingwerk. The properties were totally different, those of Basingwerk lying in the parish of Llanycil (see No. 482 above). Such an error is doubtless due to the presence in both districts of a class of place-names that are characteristic of monastic properties, such as Dol y mynach and the like; and in this instance the Llanycil Gwern Hevin is matched by a Mallwyd Gwern Hevin. Singularly enough the lessor of both properties from the Crown at the Dissolution was Robert ap Rice, who paid £1 6s. 8d. per annum for the Basingwerk lands, and £3 6s. 8d. for the Strata Marcella properties.

The following extract from the Public Record Office *Calendar of Inquisitions, Miscellaneous*, ii, 182, affords important information:—Inq. 732. Petition to the king and council from the abbot and convent of Stratmarchell. Writ to the justice of Wales, or to him who supplies his place, 18th May, 15 Ed. 2 [1322].

\* These are labelled by the Museum authorities as having been found in the parish of Maentwrog, but Cwm Moch is not situated in that parish. Mr. Hemp, in 1918, describes Cwm Moch as being "about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Trawsfynydd and 6 miles east-north-east of Harlech." There is a Dol y moch in the parish of Trawsfynydd, but apparently no Cwm Moch.

† A small *enclave* within the parish of Mallwyd is part of the far-distant parish of Castle Caereinion, co. Montgomery (see *Inventory* for that county, pp. 16, 17). This peculiar arrangement is difficult of explanation. In that area are the remains of the church of Llan Dybbo.

**Parish of MALLWYD.**

Report as to a vaccary called Pennantgyy. Writ to Edmund earl of Arundel, justice of Wales or to him who supplies his place in North Wales, 17 Ed. 2 [1324].

Inquisition before Thomas de Wynnesbury. Bala; Tuesday after Trinity.

The predecessors of the said abbot and convent had possession of a vaccary called 'Pennantgyy' and a plot of land called 'Kymman' [recte Kymmau] before the war between king Edward I and Llewelyn the prince of Wales, viz., in the year 10 Ed. I.

They had the vaccary of the gift of Guenon[wyn] sometime lord of la Pole, and the plot of the gift of Llewelyn ap Ior[werth] long since prince of Wales, and held the same in frankalmoign until they were removed therefrom by the said Llewellyn because they adhered to the said king Edward.

The vaccary and plot are now in the king's hand; the said plot contains 6 ac. and is of the yearly value of 18d.; the vaccary is of the yearly value of 60s. *Chancery Inq. Misc.*, File 94(9).

**DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).**

502. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Surv. Ord. sheet, Mer. 38 S.E.). Ded: St. Tydecho.

Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth: rural deanery of Cyfeiliog; townships (according to Robert Vaughan, *d.* 1666) of Gartheinion, Nant y mynach, Maesglashe, Camlan, Groeinion, Mallwyd, Dugoed.

This church is a simple rectangle without structural division of chancel and nave, with a good south porch and low western tower. The roof has been almost entirely renewed, and most of the windows altogether so; some of them have been carried above the roof and terminated in a point. The tower is of the Montgomeryshire type: a square stone erection carried slightly above the roof of the nave, and capped with a square timber belfry which is supported, not upon the walls of the tower but upon four massive posts that are carried down to the ground level; the walls have a very considerable rake. The south porch is a good example of local timber-work; the front beam is inscribed C. 1641. H., and above it are the skull and rib of a prehistoric mammal said to have been dug up in Cae llan near. In the church is a memorial to Dr. John Davies, rector of Mallwyd, 1604-1644.—Visited, 22nd April, 1914.

Glynne, 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1901, VI, i, 140.

NOTE.—There existed in this church at the close of the reign of Henry VIII a chantry altar dedicated to the Virgin, as is proved by the following (Pub. Record Office: *Chancery Certificates*, No. 76):—

No. 26 Malloide.

A stipendiary called Our Lady Priest ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30s.
Of the increase of a stock of cattle prized at £8 6s. 8d.								
Sir Hugh ap D'd	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30s.

Due to this priest for parcel of his wages at Mayday last which he should have received of this year's increase of cattle, 26s. 8d.

**DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).**

503. *Bwlch cae tomen* (6 in. Ord Surv. sheet, Mer. 38 S.E.; lat. 52° 41' 37", long. 3° 42' 12").

Neither in the actual Bwlch, 'a gap,' nor in the neighbourhood of it, is an artificial tomen to be observed, though rocky protuberances abound. But it was stated later by Mr. Humphrey Howells of Bron Camlan, that Bwlch cae tomen was named from a mound a considerable distance north of the bwlch which had been formed many years ago by a mineral prospector.—Visited, 22nd April, 1914.

504. *Llidiart y Barwn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 39 S.W.; lat. 52° 41' 53", long. 3° 37' 37").

The name signifies 'The Baron's gateway,' and tradition points to the spot indicated above, and not to that shown on the Ordnance sheet, as the scene of the murder of Lewis Owen, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, on the 11th October, 1555, by outlaws called 'Gwylliaid Cochion.' The gate is an ordinary one, placed immediately over against an old disused road trending northwards, about 170 yards west of the house called Nant yr ehedydd.

The murderers were executed about half a mile west of the scene of the crime.\* There is no appearance of burials.—Visited, 5th October, 1914.

\* But see *Inventory of co. Montgomery*; Cemmes, No. 106.

## Parish of MALLWYD.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

505. *Bronze Implements.* On Tanglanau mountain, Cwm dugoed, close by Llidiart y Barwn, eighteen bronze celts were discovered in June, 1902 ; they are said in *Arch. Camb.*, 1902, VI, ii, 240, to have been "of three different sizes, and all in excellent preservation." One was  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, with an edge of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches ; another 6 inches long ; both had the loop intact. They were dispersed and, with the exception of a further two which, many years later, came into the possession of Mr. T. Arthur Acton, F.S.A., Wrexham, and were by him presented to the National Museum of Wales, their whereabouts are now unknown. Sketches of those in the National Museum are appended.

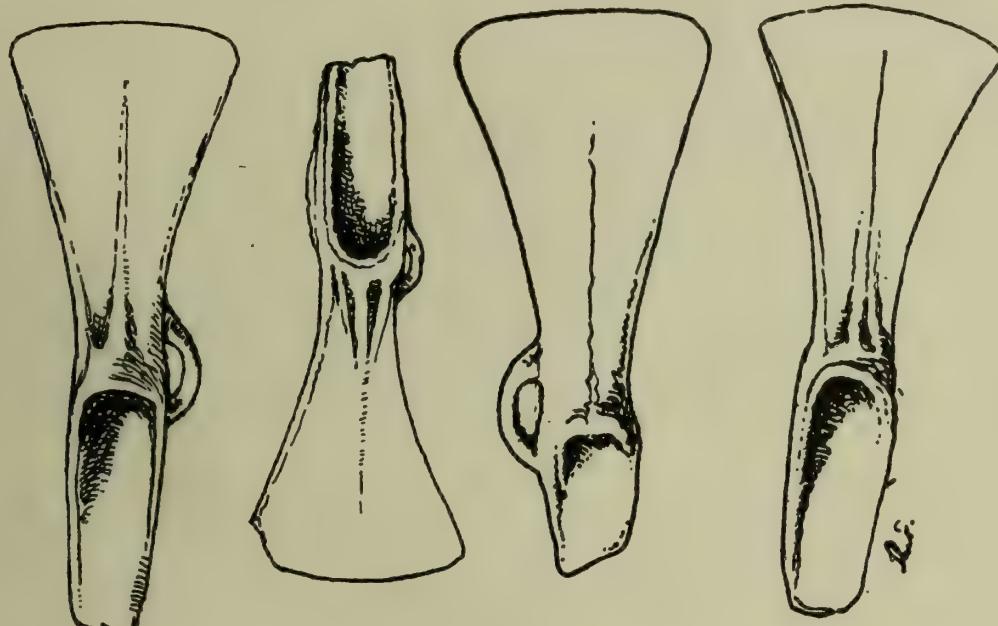


Fig. 130.

505A. *Urns.* In 1875 during drainage operations at the rear of the Buckley Arms Hotel, Dinas Mawddwy, a cist measuring about 3 feet by 2 feet and 2 feet deep, and having a covering slab 4 feet 9 inches by 3 feet, was uncovered. Within was an urn, about 5 inches high, containing incinerated bones. No further particulars are now obtainable.

It is said that two urns had been previously found not far from the Hotel in excavating the ground for railway premises, but the further history of this find is unknown.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1875, IV, vi, 195.

## Parish of PENNAL.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION C (RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURES—ROMAN).

*The following is contributed by Professor R. C. Bosanquet, F.S.A., a Commissioner.*

506. *Cefn Caer—Roman Fort* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 47 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 34' 59''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 45''$ ).

The farm of Cefn Caer, three miles west of Machynlleth, and about 500 yards south-east of Pennal church, stands at the western angle of an almost obliterated Roman fort. The site is a low ridge rising from marshy flats beside the river Dovey, distant 300 yards to the south, and commands a good view of the estuary and its setting of wooded hills. The position may have been chosen as a convenient one for unloading sea-borne supplies. The "high water mark of ordinary tides" on

## Parish of PENNAL.

the Dovey is marked by the Ordnance surveyors at a point due south of the fort, and the corresponding point on the tributary Afon Pennal which flows from the village west of the fort is 400 yards to south-west. Slates from the Corris quarries used formerly to be shipped from a wharf on the south bank of the river hereabouts.

The first mention of Roman remains here is in the papers of Robert Vaughan (d. 1666: *Cambrian Register*, 1795, i, 189). He notes the finding of a coin of Domitian.

A detailed account is furnished by a letter dated 21st August, 1693, from Maurice Jones, rector of Dolgelly, to Edward Lhuyd (Bodleian Library, Ms. *Ashmole*, 1815, fo. 265):

As for Cefen-Caer in all probability it was first built by the Romans by reason that the coyns of severall of the Cesars have been found there, as the coyns of Julius, Tyberius Augustus with many others (as Mr. Owen Wynne, the late owner of the lands, assuredly informed me). The main fort was upon the highest topp of the Hill and built quadrangular; and about it there was a strong wall and a broad ditch of an Oval forme towards the land, but towards the valley it was built in a direct line: And on the outside of the great ditch next the river Dyfi there were a great many houses built, and a little fort upon a lower banck which was built (as is supposed) of Brick, in that they are there very common. All the out walls were built of a rough hard stone which must needs be carried thither by water, because there are noe such stones to be found elsewhere in the neighbourhood nearer than Talygarrog which is 6 or 7 miles off. From the Fort to the water-side there is to this day a broad hard way paved with stones 10 or 12 yards broad in a straight line made through marsh ground and meadow lands to the River side which is in length about 200 yards. Besides the coyne there was found there a little Gold chayne, and by digging further for treasure there was found a huge brasse pann, which was bestowed upon Hugh Owen of Caer berllan [Cae'r berllan] Esq., who made use of it for his brewing vessel. In the close where the Fort stood there was lately found a precious stone which proved to be a Saphyr, and several pieces of lead and glasse. And moreover it is conjectured that the Forte was demolished before the building of the church of Pennal because the old building of the church appears to be of rough stones with brick among them. In the memory of some now living there was found by a mason (who sought a convenient place to build a kilne) a large hole which proved to be a well, the hole was built with lime and stone, as farr as could be disurn'd of it, and it proved to be soe deep that the bottom of it could not be dived into with 10 or 12 fathoms, as my Author was informed, who is Mr. Owen Wynne late of Cefn Caer.\*

Writing on 24th November, 1693, the same correspondent adds—

The gold chain at Kefen-Caer was found in or near the place where the main Fort was in a Close called to this day Cae llwyn y neuodd [Cae llwyny neuadd]. It was found long agoe in the time of Mr. Owen Wynne's (my Author) wife's grandmother long before he came to be owner of the place, the length of it was about three inches and a half; whether sold and if soe to whom, or lost, he c'l'd not learne and doth not remember. The Saphyr was found by Mr. Owen Wynne's father-in-law in the same close.

According to Carlisle's *Dictionary of Wales* (1811) the old church at Pennal "which was partly built with the ruins of the adjoining Roman fortress of Cefn Caer, was taken down about the year 1769, and a new church erected with the materials, but being wholly covered with stucco the Roman bricks are concealed from view." Fenton came here in 1804.

"Cefn y Gaer is precisely the same sort of situation as the others I saw, on which Roman Stations are placed—a gentle rising with a declivity to the South and the River Dovey. The Farm House and out buildings seem to occupy a great part of what was once the Area of the Camp, part of the Angle of the Ramparts being evidently discernible behind one of the Houses; but the other part, happening to run through the middle of Fields, is so levelled that a correct tracing of it cannot be made, now the Fields being in Corn; but I found sufficient evidence to prove it a very considerable Station, Bricks of every sort occurring everywhere, and, were the Field not under Corn pretty tall, much Pottery too. I picked up a bit with the true old glaze on it. The people told me that in earthing of Potatoes they were used to dig up Bricks and Pottery in abundance. A Pot of Silver Coins had been dug up in the time of the former Tenant which were given the Landlord, a Mr. Pugh of Garthmeilion." The vicar of Towyn, a Mr. Davis, told him "that the Causeway from Cefn y gaer down to the fordable part of the Dovey opposite to Garreg was now to be traced, and that he had seen it." (Tours, pp. 52, 53).

Fenton re-visited the site with Sir Richard Hoare in 1808,

"but found the old Inhabitants dead and the farm occupied by a new tenant who had never heard of the place having been a Roman Camp. Though it may perhaps now be difficult to trace the whole line of the Agger, yet in some few places it is plainly discerned, and fragments are seen in every pile of Rubbish on the Roads and in the Walls of the old Farm-house among the Stones. But the principal part of it being now (as when I visited it 3 years ago) under Corn, it was not likely we should find any pottery, which, if the Fields were fresh turned up, would appear. A Son in Law of the old Tenant told me that about 15 years ago, his Father in Law had found a string of Silver Beads, and that it was sent to his Landlord, a Mr. Pughe of Garthmeilan.

"There is on the banks of the Dovey near the place where they ford it over, some small earthen Mound. Could see no ancient pitched way, unless the modern road to the River pursues the same Line; nor, if the Road did cross, could we guess which direction it could have taken to have fallen in with that Road in Cardiganshire leading to Loventium." (Tours pp. 84-85.)

There are several notes on Cefn Caer in the MSS. of the Rev. Walter Davies (*Gwallter Mechain*), rector of Llanrhaiadr yn Mochnant, preserved in the National Library at Aberystwyth.

\* This letter was used by Mr. Edward Lhuyd in bishop Gibson's edition of Camden's *Britannia* (1693), ii, 778. Miss M. V. Taylor has kindly furnished a transcript from the original MS.



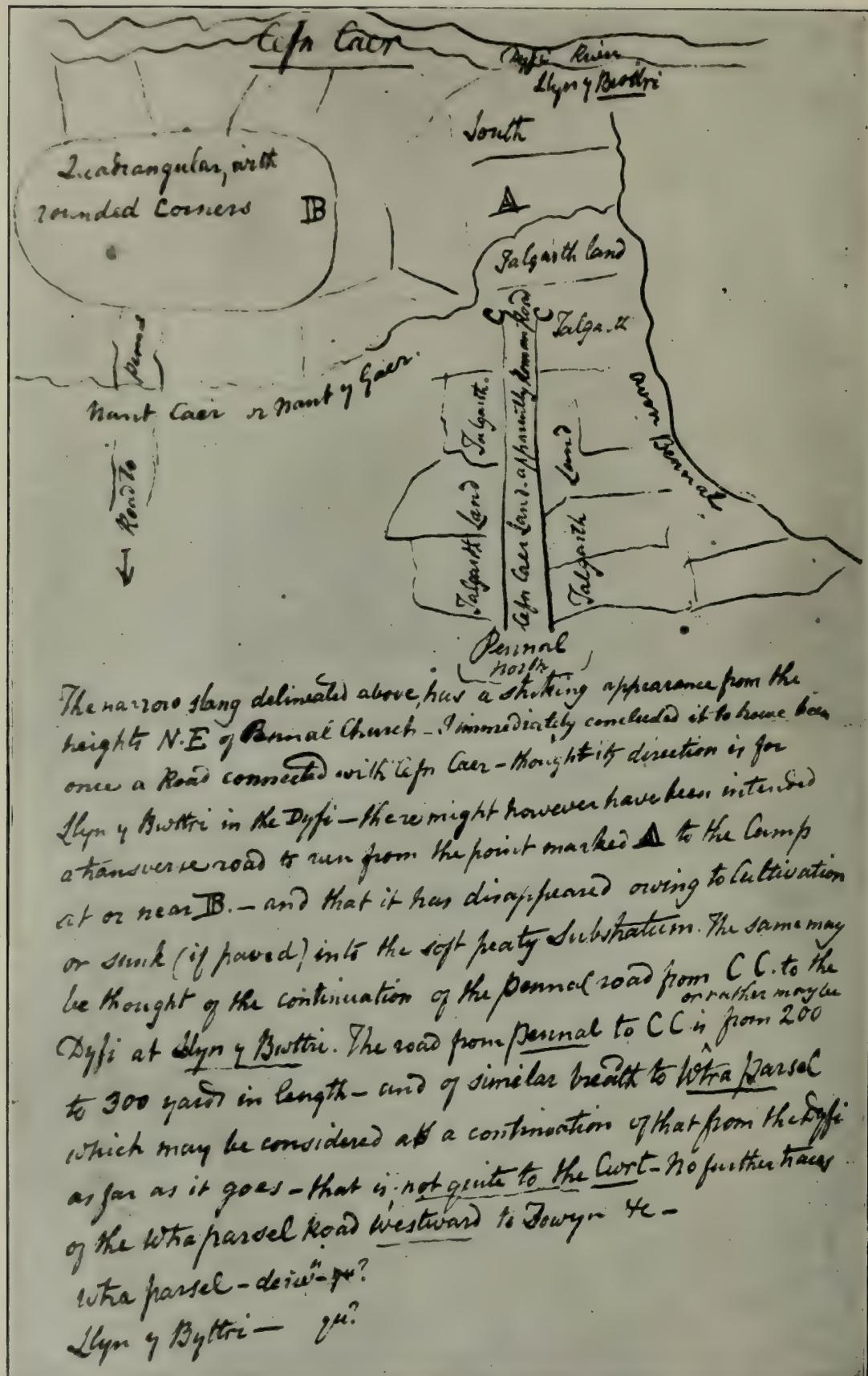


FIG. 131. PENNAL: THE ROMAN FORT OF CEFN CAER (No. 506); 18th century plan.

## Parish of PENNAL.

In 1821 he refers to it as "supposed by some to have been the Maglona of the Romans."\* Like Fenton and Hoare he failed to find the causeway reported by Maurice Jones in 1693. After his fourth visit on 11th July, 1836, he writes:—"Much peat has been cut two spits deep in the marsh—in all directions, but no traces of the Roman Road have been discovered which was supposed by some writers on this subject to have extended from the Roman Maglona to the Dyfi across this marsh about 400 or 500 yards width. If a paved road ever existed here it has sunk to too great a depth to be found." A letter to him, dated 16th January, 1836, from John Anwyl, Llugwy, gives some local traditions:—"I have often heard when a lad, of broken walls, chimneys or flues, even with the surface of the ground, deep excavations filled with ashes, etc., plough teams engulfed, and sundry other ornamental magnifications in *chwendla'r aelwyd* (fireside tales)....I have seen beautiful specimens of brick found on Cefn Caer, and their appearance led me to conclude that they had been exposed to intense heat, but not to the action of fire itself. I content myself by thinking that there was a brick manufactory on a large scale at this place, and that they were sent by sea to other stations. I have seen ample accounts of the formation of Roman roads, and of their perfection when complete. I have not seen in this neighbourhood anything that deserved the name."

A small excavation was made in 1866 when the Cambrian Archaeological Association visited the site.

"In one corner of the camp, near the ricks in the farmyard remains of a hypocaust had been exposed in anticipation of the visit. The rude pillars were composed of bricks simply placed on one another without any traces of mortar. Only a small portion had been laid bare, as the excavation was carried out in a narrow lane between two high and massive hedge-banks. . . . Some of the tiles were highly ornamented with a kind of wavy pattern. . . . There were portions of tiles, also, which had been used for flues running up the sides of a chamber. In some of the hedge-banks within the area of the camp is found a vast quantity of ashes and carbonised wood." Tiles were exhibited by Mr. W. W. E. Wynne of Peniarth; tiles and a quern by Mr. J. Pughe who spoke of Roman bricks and tiles as "found in abundance within the camp," and of "numerous coins"; but no coins were produced (*Arch. Camb.*, 1866, III, xiii, 539, 542, 545).

Fragments of brick and of flanged roofing tile have been picked up in recent years. A sherd of Samian, found on the surface of the rampart by Dr. T. Davies Pryce, of Nottingham, is in the National Museum of Wales.

The size of the fort cannot be determined without excavation. Apparently its axis ran south-west and north-east, the farm-buildings standing within the western angle which Fenton noticed. The Cambrian Association's report of 1866 describes the farm-house as built "almost on the most perfect part of the agger, which can be traced in that direction with great ease in spite of the land having been under the plough for centuries. It can be traced also in the direction leading to the river, and with some little care can be made out through its entire circuit." The last clause excepted, this was confirmed by a careful study of the site made in 1908 and on three later visits. Fifty yards north of the farm, where the lane leading from it joins the public road, a knoll which formerly rose 13 feet above the road seemed to be a fragment of the rampart which had escaped cultivation; but ploughing has lowered it in recent years. Twelve years ago the south-west side, pointing to the river, was still well defined by a steep bank and hedge, and a similar line ran at right angles to it north-eastwards. But the hedges have since been grubbed up, and the banks are becoming less distinct. Possibly the eastern angle was near the point where the latter bank reaches the public road. This would give the unusually large dimensions of 640 feet for the south-western and 860 feet for the south-eastern side. A rough sketch plan of the camp and neighbourhood has been discovered amongst the Rev. Walter Davies's papers in the National Library of Wales and is reproduced here (fig. 131); this shows the outline of the fort, "quadrangular with rounded corners," as he expressly notes. The whole seems then to have formed one enclosure, with separate fields abutting against its south side. The position of the hypocaust exposed in 1866 has been forgotten, but it was evidently in the deep lane connecting the farm with the public road, and should be easily located by excavation in the banks at their side.

The general picture is clear. The fort had a strong wall of masonry and a broad ditch, with out-buildings on the south slope. The "little fort upon a lower banck" may have been the bath-house, as the mention of bricks certainly suggests. Probably the internal buildings were mainly of wood, as the abundance of wood-ashes

\* The identification of Machynlleth with Maglona or Maglova, mentioned only in the *Notitia Dignitatum* Occ. 40.13 Magloue, and 28 Praefectus numeri Solentium Maglone (*var.* Magloue), rests merely on a supposed similarity of names. Maglona is not mentioned in the Antonine Itinerary, nor in the forged "Itinerary of Richard of Cirencester." Fenton visiting Machynlleth in 1808 made a note "To enquire about Maglona" (*Tours*, p. 84). Hoare does not mention the theory, but Carlisle's *Dict. of Wales* (1811) has under Machynlleth, "This is supposed to be the Maglona of the Romans: and where many ancient coins have been discovered." Samuel Lewis's *Top. Dict.* (1845), ii, 184, says, "supposed to have been the site of the Maglona of the Itineraries. . . . Connected with the principal station which occupied the highest part of the hill, was an outwork called Cwm Caer . . . in the adjoining parish of Pennal . . . at which place several Roman coins have been at various times discovered." In recent popular writings there has been a tendency to attach the name to the really Roman site at Pennal. But there is no evidence for connecting it with this district at all.

**Parish of PENNAL.**

suggests, and the evidence points to roof-tiles rather than stone slates. There is no clue to the ancient name of the place, or its garrison.—Visited, 25th May, 1920, and thrice in previous years.

[Illustrated, figs. 127 and 131.]

**DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).**

507. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 47 S.W.). Ded: St. Peter ad Vincula. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ystumaner.

This is a church consisting of a single rectangular chamber; it lost much of its antiquarian interest in a recent restoration. All the fittings are modern. The roof, though considerably renewed, retains some of the original timbers, and much of its very late 16th or early 17th century character. The oldest monuments are to William Anwyl, died 1721, and Hugh Vaughan, died 1717. The churchyard is oval in shape.—Visited, 10th June, 1914.

**DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—BRIDGES).**

508. *Pont ar Ddyfi* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 47 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 1''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 51' 16''$ ).

This bridge is mentioned in a journal of the Civil War as being in existence in 1644 (*Cambrian Magazine*, 1829, 63).

**DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).**

509. *Cae Carneddau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 47 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 26''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 0''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 191. There are now no cairns or mounds in this field, nor does the farmer know that any ever existed, although the field stills bears the above significant name.—Visited, 30th July, 1914.

510. *Cae'r Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 42 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 4''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 51' 32''$ ).

The field thus designated in the Tithe Schedule (No. 94) is now known only as Pant y gelynen\*—the name of the farm to which the field is appurtenant. There is no feature to explain the field name.—Visited, 30th July, 1914.

About 500 yards to the east of Cwm Cadian is 'Cae maen,' according to the Tithe Schedule (No. 34); but the true form of the name appears to be 'Cae main.'

**Parish of PENRHYNDEUDRAETH.†****DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).**

511. *Nyth y gigfran Cairn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 45''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 52''$ ).

This is a cairn which has been almost completely ruined, there being only one or two of the larger slabs of what was probably a covered cist, and a quantity of the smaller superincumbent stones.—Visited, 15th August, 1914.

This site calls for careful exploration, when light would probably be thrown upon the vicissitudes through which the monument has passed.

\* A small cottage called 'Dol gelynen' on this site is traditionally said to have been the home of Lleucu Llwyd, the subject of a well-known poem by Llewelyn Goch.

† The parish of Penrhyndeudraeth, which comprises the village of that name and a small area of the surrounding rural district, was (along with Talsarnau) formed in 1897 out of the parish of Llanfihangel y Traethau, the latter name disappearing from the list of civil parishes but retaining its ecclesiastical status (see No. 518).





FIG. 59. FESTINIOG: PENGWERN (No. 72).



FIG. 132. TALSARNAU: GLYN CYWARCH (No. 517).

## Parish of PENRHYNDEUDRAETH.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

512. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.W.). Ded: Holy Trinity. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ardudwy. The church is a modern structure.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

513. *Ancient Lane* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.W.).

A very ancient trackway, the greater part of which survives as a lane that can be easily followed, enters this parish from that of Llanfrothen at lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 44''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 40''$ ; it passes across the neck of the peninsula of Penrhyn to the sea coast at Ynysfor, whence there was passage across Traeth Bach to Aber Gafran.—Traversed, 21st August, 1914.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

514. *Cae maen llwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 11 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 8''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 15''$ ).

In the wall of a meadow belonging to the farm of Borthwen fach is a monolith, 4 feet 6 inches above ground. It stands conspicuously on the north side of the river Dwyryd, near one of the old passages across the strand into Talsarnau. Tithe Schedule, No. 165.—Visited, 20th August, 1914.

515. *Castell Aber Iâ* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 45''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 6' 15''$ ).

On a hillock in the grounds of the residence of Aber Iâ is the site of what is locally called 'Castell Owen Goch,' which tradition associates with the place of imprisonment of the Welsh chieftain, Owain Gruffydd, by his brother Llewelyn (see *Cymru*, 1904, p. 207). For the connection of this incident with the castle of Aber Iâ there is, however, no warrant in historical records, and the antiquary Edward Lhuyd, writing about the year 1700, knows the place only as 'Castell Aber Yâu.'

That there was here a small structure which might be exaggerated into a "castle," is probable, but the present remains render it by no means certain. The site is a roughly circular plateau of rock, the centre of which has been hollowed out into a kind of pit. The diameter of the plateau is about 60 feet, and the pit is about 8 feet deep. What may be the remains of a wall are to be traced on the northern side of this hollow, and it was stated that some years ago a considerable quantity of stone was removed from the place for the erection of a modern house. There are no signs of mortared masonry, and if the rocky cavity was covered, as it must have been if it ever formed the place of durance of a human being, for however short a period, the roof was doubtless of branches and turf.—Visited, 20th August, 1914.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

516. *Bronze Axe-head*, with slight top-ridge, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad at the cutting edge, said to have been found near Penrhyndeudraeth, and presented to the British Museum by Sir A. W. Franks.

[Illustrated, fig. 151 (1).]

## Parish of TALSARNAU.

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

517. *Glyn Cywarch* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 16''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 6''$ ).

This is a small but pleasing example of the fully-developed Tudor style of domestic architecture. The plan is that of a three-storied house, with a small

## Parish of TALSARNAU.

forecourt and porter's lodge in the centre of the side opposite the main residence. The house faces east. Over the front door is the date 1616 and the initials W.W., K.W., for William and Katherine Wynn. The doorway opens into a panelled hall, from which rises the front staircase. The family quarters are on one side of the hall; the kitchen and the servants' quarters are on the other side. Over the dining room fireplace is a plaster overmantel with representation of Adam and Eve, and in one of the bedrooms is a similar overmantel bearing the date 1638, the same initials, and the motto "Immaculata gens." Another of the bedrooms has a beautifully proportioned bay window of five mullions. The house, while it has been rendered more comfortable and luxurious, still preserves much of its original attractiveness and remains an interesting example of its period.—Visited, 11th July, 1914.

[Illustrated, fig. 132.]

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

518. *The Church of Llanfihangel y Traethau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.W.).

Ded: St. Michael.

This was formerly the parish church of a wide district, but in recent years the parish of Penrhyneddraeth has been formed out of the original area. Furthermore, what remained of the ancient parish has, for civic purposes, been rechristened the parish of Talsarnau, though ecclesiastically the old name of Llanfihangel y traethau, the Church of St Michael of the sands, is retained. Edward Lhuyd gives the divisions of the original parish as Parcel bach, Parcel yr ynys, Parcel y penrhyn deudraeth. There is nothing of architectural interest in the church.

*Inscribed Stone.*—i. In the churchyard stands a stone bearing an inscription on each of its four faces, which has been read:— + HOC EST SEPULCHRUM WLEDER MATRIS ODELEV QUI PRIMUS EDIFICAVIT HANC ECCLESIAM IN TEMPORE WINI REGIS.

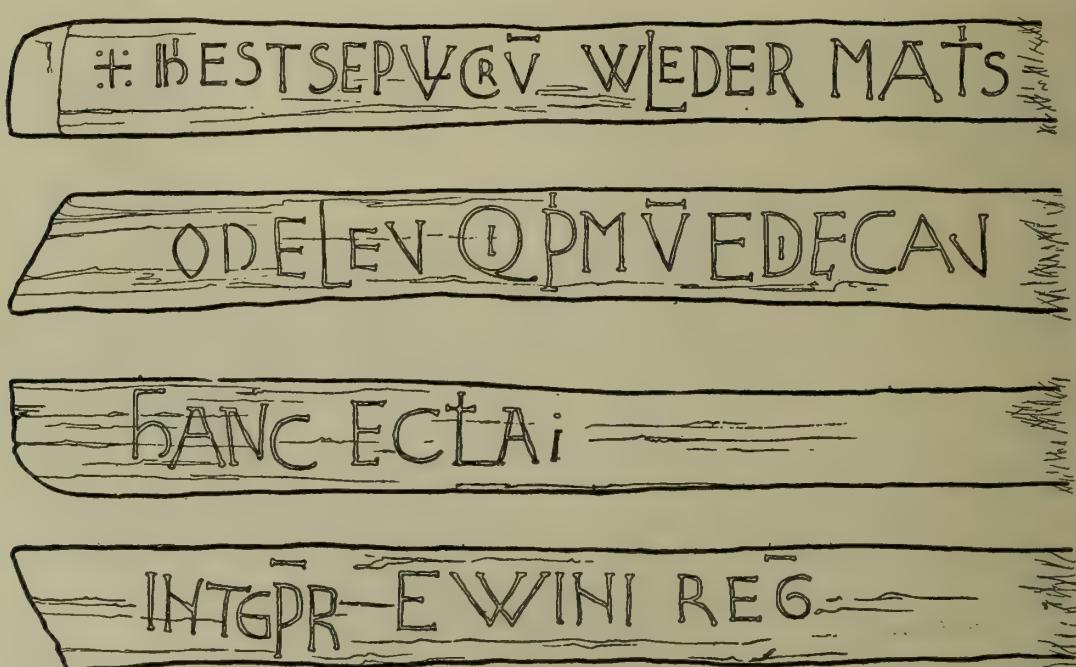


Fig. 133.

King Wini (or Ewini) is probably Owain Gwynedd, who died in 1169.

Hübner, *Inscr. Brit. Christ.*, p. 45, no. 130, with references; Westwood, *Lapid. Walliae*, p. 164, pl. 76 (1, 2).\*

[Illustrated, fig. 86, i, ii.]

\* To the name-forms which will be found in the speculations of earlier scholars (*Arch. Camb.*, 1848, I, iii, 224; 1849, iv, 21; 1874, IV, v, 243; Hübner and Westwood), may be added that of Oydelew from the *Rec. of Caernarvon*, p. 75.

I.

4  
1



II.

2  
3



FIG. 86 i, ii. TALSARNAU: CHURCH OF LLANFIHANGEL Y TRAETHAU (No. 518 i); inscribed stone.

I.



II.

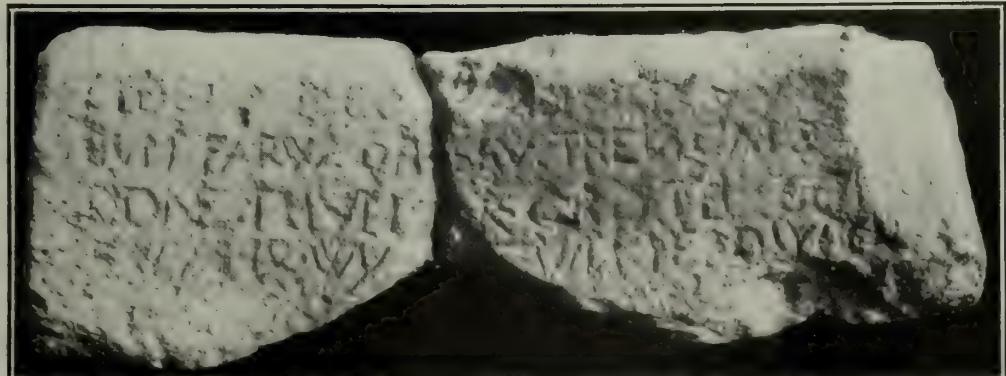


FIG. 87 i, ii. TALSARNAU: CHURCH OF LLANFIHANGEL Y TRAETHAU (No. 518 ii); inscribed stone.



## Parish of TALSARNAU.

*Inscribed Stone.*—ii. In the church is a stone upon which is carved an inscription, partly in Latin and partly in Welsh. The stone bears the date Mai 16, 1679, and is doubtless the tombstone of a local squire who died on that day, but whose name or initials are now indecipherable.

Hübner and Westwood as above.

[Illustrated, fig. 87 (i, ii).]

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

519. *Trackways* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.W. and N.W.).

Of the trackways described under the parish of Llandanwg (Nos. 166-7) which enter Talsarnau from the south, the more easterly after crossing the western slope of Moel Goedog passes to the north and east of that mountain, and is not to be traced further. The other track proceeds northwards past Llidiart garw, Tyddyn Sion Wyn (close by which is a field called 'Cae'r Capel'—Tithe Schedule, No. 1023), and Ty'n y ffordd fawr (now a ruin), beyond which it loses its identity and becomes merged in the numerous pathways of the lower ground around Pentre Singrug; it leaves this parish at the crossing of the stream of that name.

The village of Talsarnau doubtless obtained its name from the junction of several trackways at a point where stands a small hostel called 'The ship Aground,' whence a lane leads to the place of crossing of the Traeth bach.—Traversed, July and August, 1914.

NOTE.—In the Survey of 7 Henry V (*Rec. Caern.*, 282) one of the native gavels of land in this parish is termed "gavel y pedestr," which probably has reference to the ferrying of wayfarers over the estuaries of Traeth mawr and Traeth bach.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

520. *Cerrig y llan ucha* and *issa* and *Cae maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 49''$ ,  $54''$  and  $56''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 13''$ ).

Three fields adjoining each other, close to the ancient church of Llanfihangel y Traethau, which were probably at one time a single enclosure, and drew their respective names from a long since vanished monument. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 1319, 1317, 1316.—Visited, 10th July, 1914.

521. *Cae carreg llwyd* and *Buarth y maen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 45''$  and  $43''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 48''$  and  $56''$ ).

Two adjoining fields on the farm of Cefn Gwyn, where is now no appearance of an early monument; the field names are not known. Tithe Schedule, Nos. 1279, 1281.—Visited, 18th August, 1914.

522. *Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 12''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 2''$ ).

A ridge of natural rock on the western slope of Coed garthbyr. Immediately to the west of it are 'Cae maen llwyd issa' and 'Cae maen bychan,' which, however, show no traces of a vanished monument.—Visited, 11th June, 1914.

523. *Circles.* Edward Lhuyd in his *Parochialia* (part ii, pp. 87, 88) figures two circles as standing "on Voel y goedog, Llaniangle, Meirionydh, within a mile of Moel y glo," the one "six yards in diameter both ways, ye stones are as broad as long," the other "ye same diameter as ye former, within an arrow flight of ye other westward. Some of these stones are almost a yard high. Ye ground within ye circle is a little convex."

The farm of Moel y glo is marked on Ord. sheet 19 S.W., at lat.  $52^{\circ} 53' 15''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 40''$ , and a mile to the south-west are the slopes of Moel Goedog near to the line of the westernmost of the two trackways referred to in No. 519. Neither of the circles is marked on the original 1 inch Ordnance map nor on the later sheets. Considerable time was spent in the search for these monuments, but in the absence of more definite information it was impossible to discover them. An attempt in early spring might be more successful. Equally unsuccessful was the search for a monument marked on the original 1 inch map as "Carreg," about 200 yards north-east of Llyn y Fedw. (See No. 158, *ante*).

## Parish of TALYLIN.

### DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

524. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 42 N.W.). Ded: St. Mary. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ystumaner; townships of Ceiswyn, Ystradgwyn, Cedris (Edward Lhuyd); Robert Vaughan adds Maes llan and Rhiwogo.

This church has been recently restored. It consists of a single chamber, with no distinction between nave and chancel, a south transeptal chapel, south porch, and western bell-cote with one bell. The chancel is ceiled with a carved ceiling divided into square panels filled with alternate red and white roses on white and red ground. The whole is of about the year 1600. The transeptal chapel, 21 feet 6 inches by 15 feet 6 inches, is divided from the nave by a plain wooden partition of yew; above the partition is plaster. The south door is pointed under a depressed arch. The font basin is nearly square, measuring on the exterior 1 foot 10 inches by 1 foot 11 inches, by 10 inches in height; it is probably late Norman. The pillar is octagonal. The altar table, which has been lengthened, has curiously carved legs. The roof timbers are well preserved. The oldest grave seen in the churchyard is dated 1684. The old dial pillar is roughly square; the dial plate is detached and kept in the church.—Visited, 24th July, 1914.

[Illustrated, fig. 121.]

NOTE.—Prior to its suppression in the reign of king Edward VIth the Church contained an altar dedicated to the Virgin, of which the following record remains (*Pub. Record Office: Chantry Certificates, No. 76*):

No. 25 Tal y Llyn.

A stipendiary called Our Lady Priest	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16s.
Of the increase of certain cattle now prized at 101s.									
Sir Owen Glin [or G'l'm]	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16s.

### DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

525. *Sarn Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 43 N.W., 42 N.E., 37 S.E.).

Edward Lhuyd in his *Parochialia* (i, 5), states that "on the top of Gwyn Lyvein [rectè Cwm Lyveni] in ye road from Aber Lhyveni to Dolgelly there's an old sarn call'd Sarn Helen." The trackway here referred to, now the course followed by the road between the valley of the Llyfenni and Dolgelly, runs from the village of Aberllyfenni up the valley of the river Llyfenni, starting on the right bank of the stream, and keeping well up on the slopes of Craig yr Hengae. Its direction is past the house called Hengae (42 N.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 40' 58''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 50' 15''$ )—a significant name, continuing its direct northward path along the right bank of the river until it is barred by the crags which at lat.  $52^{\circ} 41' 31''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 50' 0''$  (37 S.E.) compel it to cross to the left bank of the river by a ford, after which it continues its course until it reaches the head waters of the stream, and attains almost its highest altitude at 1,295 feet where it crosses the parish boundary to Brithdir and Islaw'r dre. It drops rapidly to 750 feet and commences an absolutely straight course for about a mile of open ground to Pont y Bylan; there it crosses the Clywedog and thence runs straight to the well-known Cross Foxes Inn. Southward from Aberllyfenni it follows the river Dulas, entering the parish of Pennal and making directly for the Roman station at Cefn Caer. Though there are nowhere unmistakable evidences of Roman use, or the presence of suggestive place-names, it is the most probable route between the Roman stations Cefn Caer and Tomen y mur. It is now a good road of modern construction.

### DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

526. *Y Garnedd wen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 42 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 39' 45''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 49' 48''$ ).

This is now the name of a group of cottages, and of a station on the Corris mineral line. There can be little doubt that a cairn once stood on or near the spot indicated. It is within a few yards of the ancient road to Pennal, described in the preceding article.—Visited, 30th July, 1914.

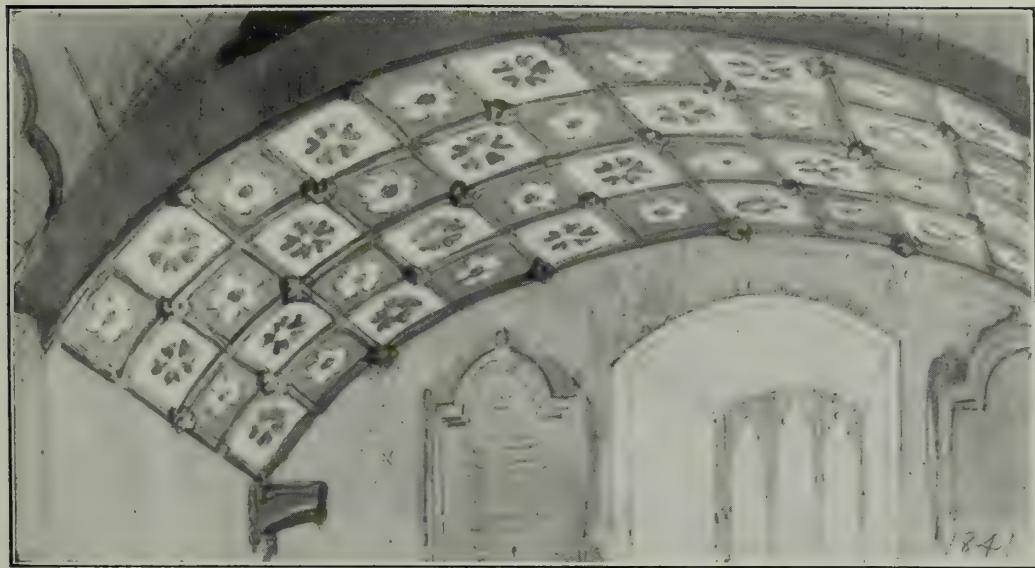


FIG. 121. TALYLLYN: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 524); chancel ceiling.

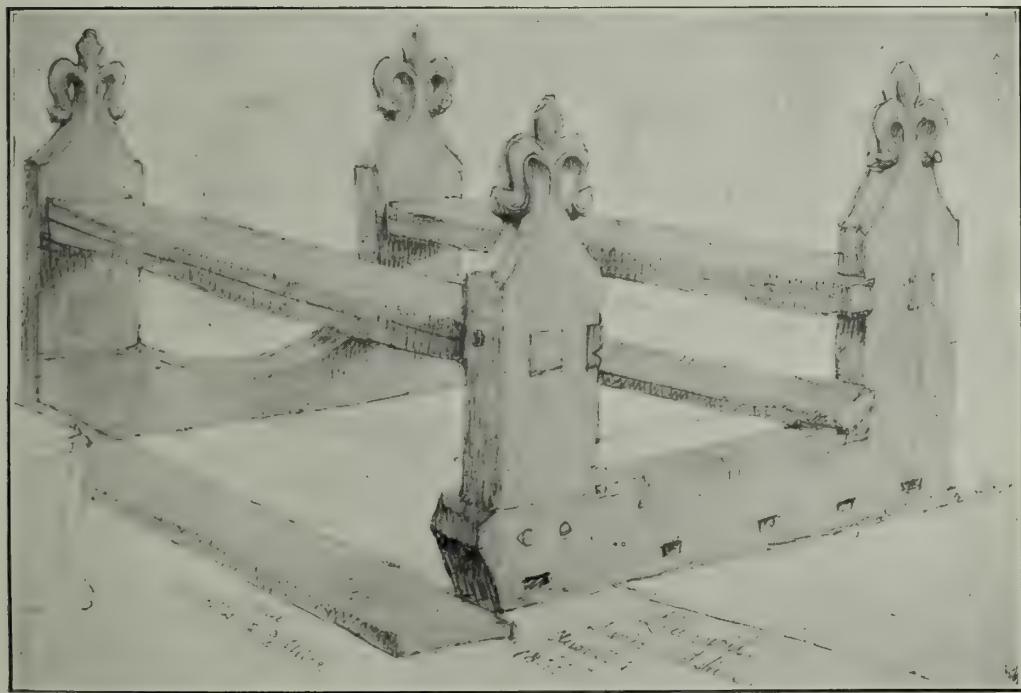


FIG. 122. LLANYCIL: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 471); old benches.



## Parish of TALYLLYN.

527. *Glyn Iago* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 42 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 47''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 40''$ ).

This is a valley through which runs a small stream, spelt "Nant Iago" on the modern Ordnance sheets, "Glyn Iaga" on the original 1 inch sheet, and "Glyn Iago" by Edward Lhuyd. As there was in the commote of Ystumaner in the reign of Henry V (*Rec. Caern.*, 275) a *gwely* of free tenants called Wele Iago there can be little doubt of the proper spelling, and that the *gwely* was located in the valley to which their ancestor had given his name.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

528. *Medieval Interments.*

The following interesting incident is recorded in Lhuyd's *Parochialia* (i, 6):—

About two- or three- and twenty years agoe certain people digging Turfs at Lhwyn Dol Ithel, after they had digged about 3 yards deep they found a coffin of ab't 7 foot long, made of fir wood, and carved at both ends thereof, which were also guilt, and when ye same was open'd they found two sculls therein, and two skeletons, one of a man—the other of a woman, the bones being something moist and tuff, the same were of great length, viz.—the thigh bones between each knuckle or joyst were 27 inches long; and within a yard of the place where the Coffin was found, they digged up two other skeletons, one of man, the other of woman, much of ye same length with the former, wet also, being laid on clay and within two roods of them they found another grave in which they found also man's bones, something as they imagined . . . of a smaller stature than ye rest and moist and tuff, also ye corps were so laid in ye coffin yt ye feet of ye one was towards ye head of ye other, and likewise those bones which were double and in the same grave. It was observed that there was laid white Hazel rods ab't 2 iards and a half long with ye bark on along ye sides of ye graves and coffin w'ch were so tuff, that when wrung, it made a writh.

In the additions supplied by Lhuyd to Camden's *Britannia* (ed. 1695) the date of the discovery is given as 1685, and the site of the discovery indicated as a turbary called "Mawnog ystradgwyn near Maes y pandy." This may be placed somewhere on the summit of what the modern Ordnance sheet calls Mynydd Dolffanog (42 N.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 40' 47''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 0''$ ), where is also shown a *mwwdwl eithin* [a gorse stack] which Lhuyd mentions as "in Ystratgwyn." 'Maes y pandy' is probably represented by the present house called Ty'n y maes, and Llwyn dol Ithel will be found at lat.  $52^{\circ} 40' 58''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 6''$  (42 N.E.).

## Parish of TOWYN.\*

## DIVISION Ia AND Ib (TUMULI).

529. *Bryn y beddau* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 48 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 33' 57''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 28''$ ).

On the farm of Dyffryn Gwyn, and nearly opposite Capel Maethlom, is a low rounded tumulus of a vertical height of about 5 feet and circumference of about

\* Valuable light is thrown upon the important subject of the shifting of centres of social and industrial life during the latter part of the middle ages by certain legal proceedings relating to Towyn in the 34-5 Elizabeth [1592-3].

At the present day the words "Towyn, Merioneth" are taken to denote solely the pleasant watering-place on the shores of Cardigan bay. But it was not always so; and at that date an inquiry was held by the Court of Exchequer (*P.R.O. Exchequer Depositories*; 34-5 Elizabeth; *Michaelmas Term*, No. 11, *Merioneth*) to decide upon several claimants to the distinction of being *par excellence*, the Towyn of Merionethshire. The file of documents in the suit is sadly incomplete, and some of those that remain are in such bad condition as to be practically indecipherable, so that it has been impossible to follow the cause to its conclusion. It is possible that the Towyn of our own day then obtained the precedence over its other Merionethshire namesakes, which it has ever since maintained.

It is difficult to gather the precise nature of the controversy, or the names of those between whom it was waged; but it would appear that a grant had been made by the crown, probably of lands that had devolved to the king through the dissolution of the monasteries or, later, by the suppression of the chantries, which lands were situated in Towyn co. Merioneth, and that difficulties had arisen as to the correct locale of the lands to which the grant applied. The Commissioners appointed to take evidence, on interrogatories which are now indecipherable, were David Lloyd ap Thomas, gent., John Davies, clerk, Robert Vaughan ap Ieuan ap Robert

## Parish of TOWYN.

80 feet. A fragment of rock shows at the base of the east side of the mount. It has apparently been opened from the top.—Visited, 5th May, 1914.

Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 548.

530. *Tomen cil y parc* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 9''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 9''$ ).

This is a mound of unusual shape for this county, for instead of the ordinary circular form it is 34 feet long north and south by 18 feet east and west. In reply to enquiries it was stated that what were described as "swords" have been found within it; but nothing definite could be learnt of the circumstances. It is possible that considerable alterations have been made in the shape of the mound.—Visited, 1st May, 1914.

Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 551.

531. *Pant y beddau Cairns* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 35' 42''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 39''$ ).

On the ffridd or mountain enclosure appertaining to the farm of Braich y

gent., and Edward Price, gent. These held an enquiry at le Booth Hall of Bala on the 9th October, 33 Eliz. The information recorded is of such importance, not alone as regards the township of Towyn and the confines of the patrimony of St. Cadvan, but of other Towyns, that we give a brief summary of it.

A witness, whose name cannot be entirely deciphered ( . . . Ieuan ap Rees) deposed that he had heard of a place called Towyn Mearyon [Towyn Meirion] lying about ten miles from the town [i.e., township] of Towyn, and that in ancient times it was surrounded [by the sea], and is now covered with sand.

Robert Wyn ap Ieuan ap Morgan of Llanbedr (writing indistinct and document mutilated) said that he knew the said Towyn Mearyon in Ardudwy, about 15 miles distant from the parish church of Towyn.

The next witness, whose name is entirely lost, testifies that there were three houses and certain cottages in the township of Towyn; the area of the township was two or three acres. "To the third interrogatory he saith that as well in the time of the Earl of Leicester, being about 18 years ago, as divers times before and sithence, he had heard that the lands and grounds lying and being in the townships of Towyn, Gwrych, and Bron y Prys or the most part thereof, were reputed and taken to be part and parcel of the lands sometime belonging to the chapel of St. Cadvan in Towyn, and were called by the name of Maynol Cadvan and Cadvan's Land, and sometimes by name of Maynol Towyn, and that the profits were given to a priest to celebrate divine service in the said chapel called Cappel Cadvan" [see below, No. 538 note]. To the fourth interrogatory "he doth [not] know of any other place called Towyn Mearyon in the comot of Ardudwy, but there was a place called Towyn Mearyon about eleven miles distant from the church of Towyn." To the fifth interrogatory he said "it was reported that a great quantity of land adjoining to the said Towyn Mearyon was in ancient time surrounded with water and covered with sand. And he doth know that certain warrants were sent to one Rice Hughes, esq., the deponent's father, being sheriff of the said county about ten years ago [in 1581], for rescuing certain cattle taken (as it was then alleged) for rent or some of arrearages of rent due to her majesty [queen Elizabeth], and that it was then reported by the tenants and freeholders inhabiting near to the said premises that her majesty ought not to have the rent then demanded by reason the same lands were covered with sand."

Jenkin ap John ap Ieuan ap Tudor, of the parish of Towyn, aged 52, was born and still dwelt in the township of Gwrych; "he saith that the township of Towyn is divided from the townships of Gwrych and Bron y Prys by an old ditch called . . . Ditch." To the second interrogatory "he saith that the town[ship] of Towyn consisted of three houses and about four or five cottages, and had land of three days ploughing and one acre of meadow, and no more that he ever heard, saving the church and churchyard and the said chapel of Saint Cadvan." To the third interrogatory "he saith that he heard it reported by old and ancient men that all the lands and grounds lying in the said townships of Towyn, Gwrych, and Bron y Prys (except two acres of escheat land) were chantry lands, and given and employed for the sustentation of a priest to say service in the Chapel of St. Cadvan, and were and are called by the name of St. Cadvan's Lands." To the fourth interrogatory "saith that he doth know another place called Towyn Mearyon in the comot of Ardudwy, being about ten miles distant from the parish church."

Piers . . . of Llanbeder, of the age of 85 "saith that he doth know two places of the name of Towyn in the comot of Ardudwy, one called Towyn Mearyon, and the other Towyn Hene [Hen=old], both which said places are now surrounded [by the sea] and covered with sand." Both places lie far distant from the parish church of Towyn, viz., Towyn Hene about 16 miles distant, and the other about 10 miles.

The same Commissioners held a further enquiry on the 12th February, 34 Eliz. [1593], when the examination was devoted to the elucidation of the puzzle of the various Towyns. A considerable part of the document containing the depositions of the witnesses is unreadable with the exception of an occasional word here and there. The facts elicited appear to be of considerable interest to the local archaeologist and historian.

Robert ap Ieuan ap Morgan enumerates the townships of the parish of Towyn thus, (1) illegible, (2) Kaythle, (3) illegible, (4) Kynvel, (5) Treverion, (6) Gwythefnydd, (7) Town, (8) Bryn Price, (9) Gwrych. The last three are "very nigh adjoining to the parish church of Towyn." To the eighth interrogatory "saith that he knoweth that the bounds and mears of the parish of Towyn extend from the place called Vaynol eastward about three (?) miles, and from Vaynol westward to the sea, and northward about two miles, and southward to the mears which divide the counties of Merioneth and Cardigan." To the tenth interrogatory "saith that he knoweth and hath known for the last 40 years a place called Town Merion in the comot of Ardudwy, and that it is reputed to be part and parcel of the townships [? parishes] of Llanenddwyn and Llanddwyn." To the eleventh interrogatory "saith that he remembereth three freeholders, viz., David Lloid ap Ll'en ap Deio, David ap Ieuan ap Hoell, and Rowland ap Richard, now deceased, were owners of several parcels in the said

## Parish of TOWYN.

rhiw, and adjoining the fence separating it from ffridd Bryn y castell, are two cairns, the site being known as 'Pant y beddau' 'the hollow of the graves.' The first cairn is about 3 feet high and 10 feet diameter. The second, about a yard distant from the first, is covered with bracken ; it is about 13 feet diameter. The latter shows signs of having been opened, but the former appears to be untouched.—Visited, 1st August, 1914.

532. *Ffridd Bryn dinas Tumuli* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 34' 35''$  and  $36''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 37''$  and  $34''$ ).

These are two opened tumuli on the ffridd of Bryn Dinas. In both cases a cist was exposed, the remains of which lie scattered around. One of the end slabs of the first cist is missing, so that the total length is not known ; and of the other the western end has been cleared out and destroyed. Amongst the remaining small stones of the tumulus some pieces of white quartz were noticed. So far as could be ascertained no bones or pottery were discovered in either mound.

A third mound stands about 150 yards east of the above. This has been opened, and a cist is uncovered of which only the side slabs are in position.

parcel of land called Town Merion, who had an estate of perpetuity therein, before the same was overwhelmed with the sand of the sea at several times within these 36 years last past. And saith also that he, this deponent, himself hath an ancient deed in his possession whereby is mentioned that part of the lands which did lie in a place called Towyn Merion, now overwhelmed with the said sands, was conveyed and assured to this deponent's ancestors, and wherein also is contained that the lands so conveyed were situate in the townships of Llanenddwyn and Llanddwyn. And saith further that in the Welsh speech every place which is so overwhelmed with sand is called Y Towyn." To the twelfth interrogatory "saith that he never heard of any fairs or markets kept in the said Towyn Merion, or that there ever was a town[ship] there." John Wyn ap Humfrey of Llanenddwyn in the comot of Ardudwy, gent., aged 61 ; Richard ap Ieuan ap D'd of Llanenddwyn, aged 84 ; Ieuan ap Elys of the parish of Llanfair, aged 55 : he had always dwelt within a mile of Towyn Merion ; and William ap Ieuan ap Ll'n of Llanenddwyn, freeholder, aged 72, depose in like manner.

On the same day as the Commissioners were occupied in taking the above testimony the Court of Exchequer had the suit before them, and directed the issue of the following order which, as it recites the grounds of the action, we give as follows :—“ *Merioneth.* Upon the opening and debating of the matter in variance this day, the same being for and concerning the town of Town in the county of Merioneth, containing the townships or hamlets of Bron y Price, Gwrighe, and of Town, usually also called or termed by or under the name of Vaynoll or Maynoll Town, and for the lands and tenements therein which the plaintiffs claim by lease for certain years to come from the Queen's majesty under the great seal of England, affirming the inheritance thereof to belong to her majesty as parcel or belonging to the principality of Wales, and producing and showing forth divers ancient records, whereby it appeareth of ancient time that the town of Town in the said county and the lands therein belonged to the said principality, which town of Town and the lands therein mentioned in the said records the plaintiffs affirm to be the town of Town and lands in variance above mentioned. And whereas the defendants, affirming the town of Town and the lands therein above mentioned now in variance to have been parcel of or belonging to a free chapel in Town aforesaid (in variance) called St. Cadvan's Chappell, and to have thereby come to the late king of worthy memory, king Edward the Sixth, by reason of the statute in that behalf made and provided, do severally claim and make title to the said lands and tenements belonging to the said chapel called Cadvan's lands in Vaynoll and Biarthrimie and in the parish of Town in the said county, granted in fee simple to John Bellowe and Edward Strightburie, by and under which grant the defendants severally claim to hold the said lands and tenements in variance. And the said defendants in answer and avoiding of the said records allege that the town of Town and lands and tenements comprised and specified in the same records is not nor are not the town of Town and lands and tenements now in question, but another town of Town within the same parish of Town, but distant from the Town in variance by the space of about ten miles ; which town of Town so meant and specified in the said records, as the defendants say, is and hath been of many years surrounded and overflowed with sea and sands ; which allegation of the said defendants the plaintiffs in her majesty's behalf and their own denied, affirming the town of Town and the lands therein now in variance to lie within the Comott of Eastymanner in the said county, within which comott also the said town of Town and lands therein mentioned in the said records did and do lie, as may appear by some of the said records ; and affirming the said town and lands which the defendants term by the name of Town (if ever the same was called by that name) and pretended to be the Town and lands meant and mentioned in the said records to lie or to have lain in another parish and comott, viz., in the comott of Ardudwy in the said county. Upon all the premises considered, It is ordered that a Commission shall be awarded to certain gentlemen indifferently to be nominated by the said parties, if the defendants will join therein, or else to be nominated by the plaintiffs, adjoining in that service some of her majesty's officers within the said county to enquire, survey, and certify the truth. And what they shall be able to find," etc. (*Exch. Decrees and Orders*, vol. 19, fo. 21 ; 34 Eliz. Hilary).

In accordance with the Court's order a further Commission was held, of which the record is almost entirely illegible. The evidence of Robert ap William of the parish of Towyn can be deciphered, but adds little to the information already obtained. He gives the townships of the parish of Towyn as Towyn, Bronprice, Gwrach (these are nigh unto the parish church), Penmayn, Kevenrhose, Kaythle, Botalog, Kynvyl, Treverioth (?), Gwythelvynydd, and part of Maysetrevenant. He enumerates the cottagers within the three first-named townships. No fairs were at that period held in Towyn. Harry Salusbury of Caythle, gent., aged 40, also gave evidence which appears to be generally confirmatory of the earlier witness. With this the surviving documents of the suit terminate.

## Parish of TOWYN.

## DIVISION Ic (MEINI HIRION).

533. *Croes Faen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 35' 33''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 23''$ ).

A fine boulder of volcanic origin, 7 feet 6 inches high, the sides of which have a level surface; it is slightly thicker in the middle than at the base. It is broken at the top, and a cross may have been incised upon the broken fragment; but it had no pedestal, is simply sunk in the ground, and leans slightly. It is traditionally said that this column was used formerly to rid the district of a fiery dragon. It is also said that the stone was moved to Morfa Towyn about the year 1840, but that later it was restored to its original position. (*Cantref Meirionydd*, 550).—Visited, 8th June, 1914.

NOTE.—It is highly probable that *Ynys Maengwyn* was named after this pillar.

[Illustrated, fig. 73.]

## DIVISION Id (STONE CIRCLES).

533A. *Eglwys y gwyddelod* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 34' 52''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 8''$ ).

Occupying a small plateau on the farm of Pant yr on (Ash tree hollow), is an imperfect circle of stones, six of which are of an average height of 3 feet. The circle is very defective to the north and west; slight traces are visible of stones which have sunk or been broken.—Visited, 10th June, 1914.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1874, IV, v, 234; Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 529.

NOTE.—There are two other sites bearing the name of *Eglwys y gwyddelod* in the parish of Towyn, but no remains are visible at either of the other sites.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION D (CASTLE MOUNTS, WITHOUT ENCLOSURES).

534. *Y Domen Lâs* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 47 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 35' 4''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 25''$ ).

This is a regularly-formed mound, about 10 feet high, the flat top of which is about 45 feet in diameter. There is a broad, shallow ditch, but no remains of a bailey are traceable. The mound is in Talgarth Park.—Visited, 10th June, 1914.

NOTE.—This was without doubt the caput of a medieval manor. The neighbouring hamlet is called Y Cwrt, and a mill called 'Melin y Parsel' is near by. About 900 yards direct north of the above is a site which is marked "Tumulus" on the modern Ordnance sheets. It is, however, nothing more than a natural projection of rock over which has accumulated a thin covering of soil.

[Illustrated, fig. 7.]

535. *Bryn y castell*, otherwise *Castell Cynfal* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 35' 38''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 45''$ ).

This is a large artificial mound at the northern extremity of Cwm Cynfal which was fortified by Cadwaladr ap Gruffudd, lord of Meirionydd, in 1147, and taken and demolished in that year (*Brut y Tywysogion*). At the northern end of a small plateau is a rounded mass of rock which formed a foundation of the motte type for a wooden fortalice. The top of the work is surrounded by a low bank, the enclosed area measuring about 60 feet in diameter. From 12 to 15 feet below the top is a ditch 6 to 8 feet wide and 3 feet deep, cut out of the solid rock. The sides of the hill are very steep.—Visited, 30th April, 1914.

NOTE.—In the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, is the following ms. note by the Rev. Walter Davies (*Gwallter Mechain*) of a visit to this site on the 18th July, 1836:—"The mound between the outer circumference about 72 ft. in diameter; the remains of the circular out-wall just out above the surface here and there, and stands higher than the enclosed area. Paced the dry and deep moat all round and found it to be about 136 yards."

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

536. *Dolau Gwyn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 39''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 2' 1''$ ).

This is a pleasing example of the small residence of the early 17th century. It is a house of two stories above the ground floor, stepped gables, dormers, tall

square chimneys, mullioned and transomed windows of various sizes, and a projecting porch in the centre of the front. The entrance through the porch is into a small but well-proportioned hall. In the kitchen is the date 1620 with the initials L.G.A.G. for Lewis and Anne Gwynne, and in one of the bedrooms is the same date above a heraldic shield. The drawing room retains its beautifully panelled plaster ceiling, and one of the heraldic shields bears the date 1656 and the initials G.N.A.N. for Griffith and A.

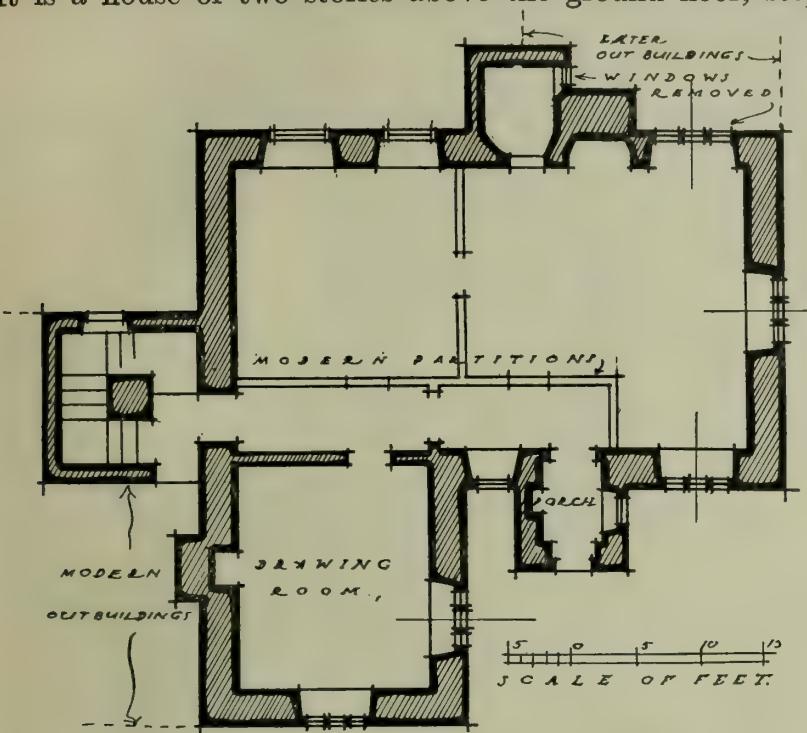


Fig. 136.

Nanney. The staircase is original.—Visited 30th April, 1914.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1868, V, iii, 253 (illustrated).

NOTE.—Dolau Gwyn was built somewhat before 1620, as a deed dated 30th April of that year speaks of "the new house of Lewis Gwynne in the p'ish of Towyn called y Dole Gwyn."

[Illustrated, figs. 134, 135.]

537. *Dyffryn Gwyn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 48 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 33' 54''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 5''$ ).

A small mansion, now a farm house; the north front presents some interesting features. The almost perfectly circular-headed doorway in the middle of the front is unaltered, as also is the three-light mullioned window on one side of the doorway under a dripstone having above it the date 1640 and the letters H.P. In the roof are three dormer windows of mid-17th century, but much spoiled in modern times—Visited, 6th May, 1914.

537A. *Ynysmaengwyn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 1''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 5''$ ).

One of the largest mansions in the county; built about the middle

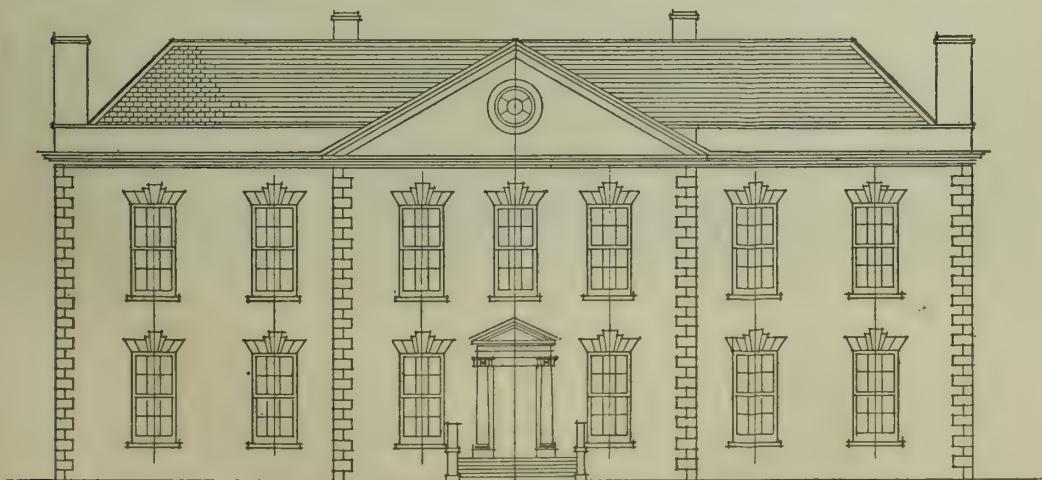


Fig. 145.

of the 18th century. It is an effective example of the style of that period.

## Parish of TOWYN.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

538. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 S.W.). Ded: St. Cadvan. Diocese of Bangor; archdeaconry of Merioneth; rural deanery of Ystumaner; townships (in 1592) of Y Faenol, Cynfal, Bottalog, Caethle, Gwyddelfynydd, Penmaen, Trefryon and Maesmore, Trefeddian and Cefn Rhos (*Pub. Rec. Office, Land Revenue Book*, No. 234, 34 Eliz.).

A cruciform church with central tower; the nave and aisles and some portion of the north transept date from the period 1150-1200. The rest of the building is modern, though the chancel is probably built upon the original foundations. The nave arcade consists of three bays of very rude and plain circular Norman piers,

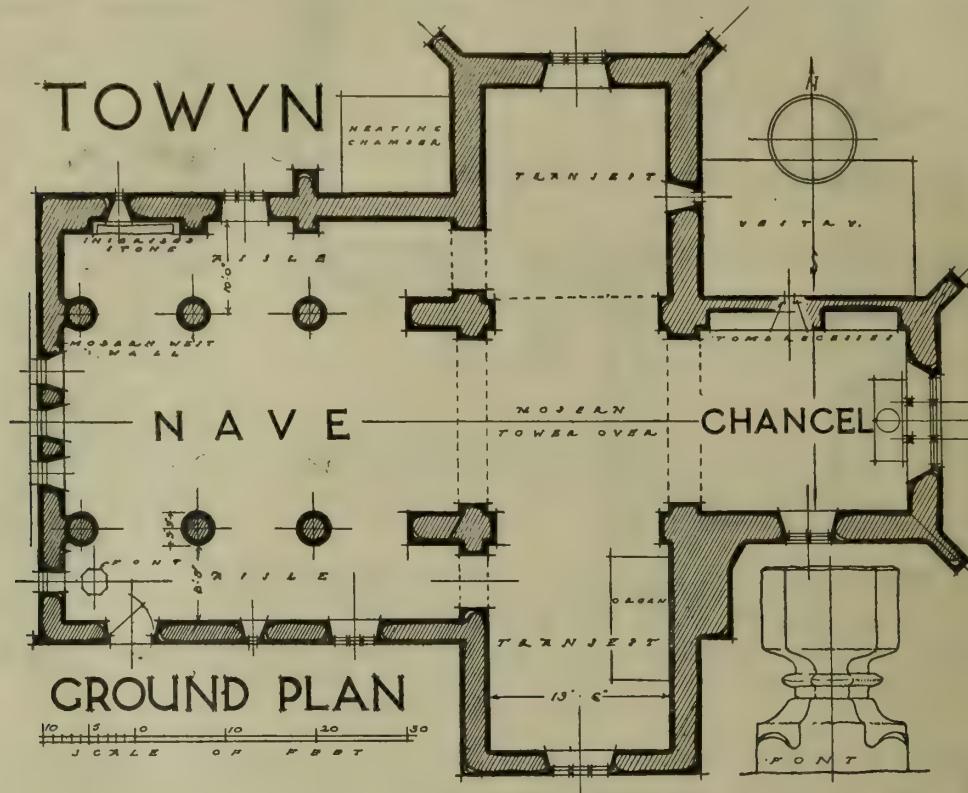


Fig. 137.

built of ashlar and rubble plastered over, and without capitals; their diameter is 3 feet 6 inches. The arches which spring from these piers are correspondingly rude. Above the arches are small round-headed windows deeply splayed to the interior. The church at one time extended further to the west, but on the fall of the central tower in 1692 a low tower was erected within the church, mostly incorporating and destroying the westernmost bay. This tower was pulled down about 1848, but traces of it remain in the lower part of the outside of the west wall, the upper part of which is fitted with modern round-headed windows. The aisles were probably lean-tos, but on the north side the nave arcading has been strengthened by what appear to be intended for rough flying buttresses. The windows in both aisles are modern. The font is Norman, 2 feet 10 inches high. In the chancel are two effigies which have been fully described in *Archæologia Cambrensis* for 1875 by Mr. M. H. Bloxam. Set up by the south wall of the chancel is the sun dial.—Visited, 29th April, 1914.

St. Cadvan's well has for many years been enclosed within a stable.

*Arch. Camb.*, 1897, V, xix, 160; Glynne, 'Notes,' *ib.* 1901, VI, i, 141.

[Illustrated, figs. 23, 28, 75 and 138-140.]

NOTE.—At the accession of king Edward VI<sup>th</sup>, there existed in Towyn church a chantry chapel, or at any rate a chantry altar, founded in honour of St. Cadvan. This is made clear by the certificate drawn up after the suppression of the chantry, which runs as follows (*Pub. Record Office: Chantry Certificates*, No. 76):—

## No. 22, TOWYN.

The stipendiary called St. Cadvan's Chaplain	...	...	...	70s. in rent of lands.
The incumbent dead	...	...	...	70s.
Memorand' there was a stock of cattle belonging to this service which is sold by the wardens about 12 months now expired.				
Another stipendiary called Our Lady Priest	...	...	...	40s.
of the yearly increase of a stock of cattle now prized at £10 12s. 4d.				
Sir John D'd Lloyd	...	...	...	40s.



FIG. 138. TOWYN: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 538); nave





FIG. 139.



FIG. 140.

TOWYN: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 538); effigies.



## Parish of TOWYN.

This is a large parish cont., in circuit about 10 miles, wherein be of all sorts about 700 howseling people, and the vicar hath no assistance to serve the cure, albeit the parsonage, whereof [blank in document] inhabiting about London is present incumbent, being of the clear yearly value of £22. It is thought most requisite that the parson shall be charged to find a curate [out] of the profits of his benefice for the vicar's assistance, etc.

The altar to the Virgin was probably placed in one of the transepts. The stipendiary serving this altar was, as is shown by the above Certificate, paid 40s. a year out of the profits accruing from a stock of cattle which stood in the general charge of the churchwardens. With praiseworthy foresight the wardens had disposed of the herd whence proceeded the profits that sustained the chaplain at St. Cadvan's altar, but it appears from a document in the Public Record Office (*Court of Augmentations: Proceedings; Bundle 28, No. 60*) that they had not pursued the same course in the case of the herd that constituted the endowment of Our Lady's altar, or at least (if the wardens are the same with the persons mentioned in the document) that they had not accounted to the commissioners or crown receiver for the proceeds of any such sale. A year or two subsequent to the Chantry Certificate already set forth, the royal receiver presented a petition to the Chancellor of the Court of Augmentations and Revenues of the king's crown, alleging "that one Griffith ap Jevan, Hughe D'd Lloyd, and John ap Jevan ap Tudor of Towen, in the county of Merioneth, had embezzled and sold the cattle belonging to the service of the stipendiary of Our Lady within the said parish of Towyn, such portions since the king's interest to those same [had accrued under the Act 1 Edw. VI], as for which they had already received the sum of £6 8s. 4d. in ready money," which they refused to pay over to the receiver. The subsequent proceedings do not appear to have survived.

## Inscribed Stone. i.

The following article is contributed by Sir John Morris-Jones, M.A., LL.D., a Commissioner:—

The inscribed stone which now lies in the Church at Towyn is probably the most ancient monument of the Welsh language. In 1761 it is said to have been removed "from its place as a gatepost" (Gough's *Camden*, 1789, ii, 541). Early in the last century it lay in the churchyard (*Cambro-Briton*, ii, 1821, p. 121). It is generally known as the "Stone of St. Cadfan," though it has nothing to do with him. The misnomer, obviously suggested by the fact that the church is dedicated to St. Cadvan, may be due to Edward Lhuyd, who saw Cadvan's name in the *adgan* of side 2, which he misread as *cate(va)n*, and in the  $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} c : c p e \\ t u a r \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$  of side 4, which he misread as *cacdetvan*: see the accompanying block. Later, Ab Ithel saw *Cadvan* in *gu adgan* of side 3, fig. 143. Of course, all these are absolutely impossible forms of the name *Cadvan*, which in old Welsh was *Catman (n)*, and in Latin *Catamannus*, appearing as *Catamanus* on the Llangadwaladr stone.

The Towyn stone is about 7 feet long; it is rectangular in section, and is inscribed on each of its four sides. It is now broken in two near the top, and some letters are lost on side 3 owing to the surface having chipped off at the edge of the fracture.

The inscription seems to have been first studied by Edward Lhuyd, who saw the stone before it was broken. His reading and attempted interpretation are reproduced herewith, from Peniarth MS. Addit. 111 B, in the National Library of Wales. It is seen that Lhuyd attempts to explain it as a Latin epitaph of St. Cadfan. According to Westwood, *Lap. Wall.*, p. 158, drawings of the stone by Lhuyd are reproduced in Gibson's *Camden*, p. 622, and Gough's *Camden*; but as regards the former the statement is incorrect. Pennant gives an engraving of the stone in his *Tours in Wales*, ii, 1784, pl. v, from a drawing in Lhuyd's papers, as he says, p. 93; the drawing differs somewhat from the engraving in *Camden*, according to Westwood's description; it differs considerably from the lettering in Lhuyd's MS. here reproduced, and must have been taken from a later and more careful drawing of Lhuyd's.

The first good plate of the stone was published by Westwood in the *Arch. Camb.*, 1850, opp. p. 90. A reduced reproduction of a tracing of this plate appears in Hübner's *Inscr. Christ. Brit.*, 126, and in my paper in *Y Cymroddor*, xxviii, p. 260. This is the best representation of the inscription hitherto published. It is not quite correct. The fracture on side 4 (our side 2) comes between the *l* and *t* of *molt*, through the stem of the *p* in the second line, and between the *a* and the *r* in the third, and NOT at the end of the three short lines as in Westwood's drawing. The cross stroke of the uncial *epsilon* in *tengr* on side 3 does not touch the semi-circle as in Westwood's plate (see the photo, fig. 143); but on the whole the lettering is correctly reproduced, having been carefully reduced from rubbings "by means of the *camera lucida*." Westwood's plate\* is accompanied by a description of the stone by him (*Arch. Camb.*, 1850, pp. 90-95), and an attempted interpretation by Ab Ithel (pp. 96-100).

Sir John Rhys wrote a short note on the stone in *Arch. Camb.*, 1874, p. 243, and

\* The plate in *Lap. Wall.* is a lithographic reproduction of the original in *Arch. Camb.*

## Parish of TOWYN.

discussed it more fully in the vol. for 1897, pp. 142-6. The latter article is accompanied by drawings which are less accurate than Westwood's, though the mis-placing of the fracture on face 4 is corrected. The *gu* at the top of face 3 (fig. 143) appears as *n* in Rhys's plate, but he reads *gu* and makes no reference to the *n* of the plate.\* This inscription is very different from the Latin and Ogam inscriptions which Rhys had so successfully interpreted ; he could make nothing of this, and so came to the hasty conclusion that it is a forgery. Side 4 (fig. 143) he thinks "is a jumble cut by somebody who had a superficial acquaintance with Old Welsh," p. 145. Sides 1 and 3 he thinks may be genuine, but "though there is uniformity of lettering throughout," he suggests these "may have served as models for the lettering of the rest." It is hardly necessary to point out what a desperate assumption is that of a person having even "a superficial acquaintance with Old Welsh" before Lhuyd's time (c. 1700), and of the same person being able to imitate old lettering to perfection, and using it to inscribe nonsense. I have not seen any of Rhys's later observations on the stone, but I believe he had relinquished this theory of the inscription, or any part of it, being forged.

The latest discussion of the stone is contained in a paper by the present writer (from which many of the above details are taken) in *Y Cymroddor* xxviii., pp. 260-7. The interpretation there offered is, for the most part, confessedly tentative ; but the importance of the inscription for the history of the Welsh language is now clear. Thus, though serious difficulties remain, it may be well to attempt a brief re-statement of the problem, and to indicate the bearing of the inscription on the linguistic question.

As Professor W. M. Lindsay states in a note appended to the above-mentioned paper, "the writing on the stone is half-uncial, of much the same type as the writing of the book of St. Chad." The persistent use of uncial *e* (ε) may, as he suggests, be a survival on stone ; but the uncial *e* described above (with the cross-stroke not touching the semi-circle) is similar to the uncial *e* of the *Catamanus* stone at Llangadwaladr, which belongs to the early part of the seventh century. The *R* with the sprawling second half is also old ; so that the stone is more likely to belong to the seventh than to the eighth century.

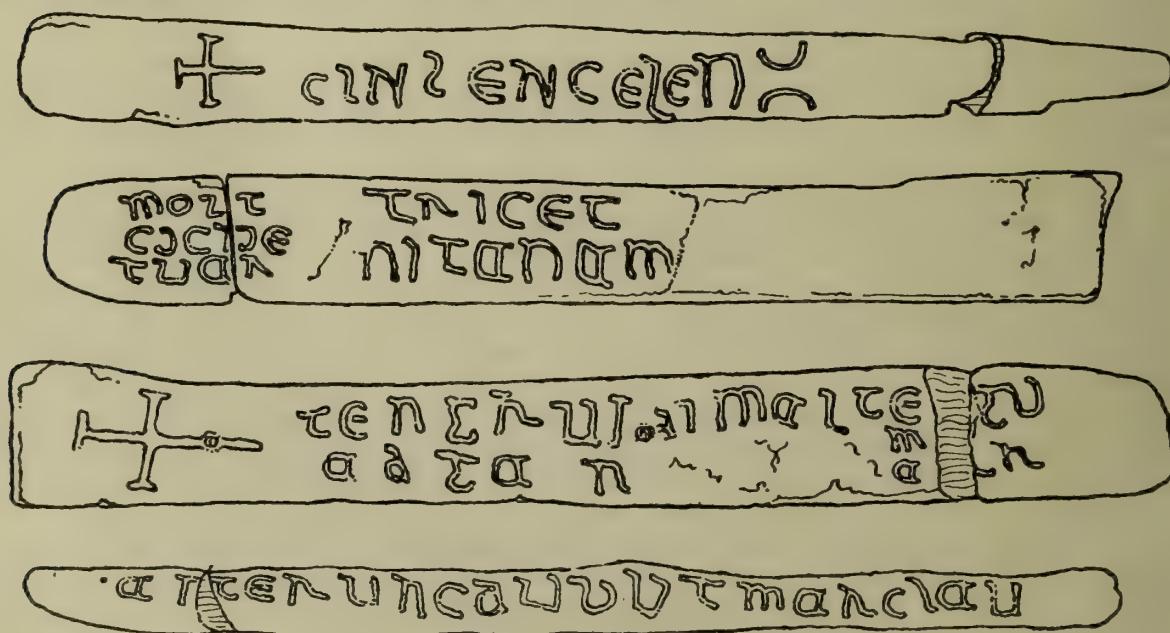


Fig. 143.

The inscription on side 1 is

† cINGEN celen ≈

There is only one doubtful point here. Lhuyd joins the bottom of the *i* to the *n* in the first word ; and Westwood also reads *Cungen* instead of *Cingen* ; the join would make a ligatured *un*. Both forms are possible Old Welsh spellings of the name ; but *Cingen* is perhaps the more likely reading here. *Cingen* is a man's name, which would be *Cunogenos* in British, and would now be *Cynien*. It is to be

\* The Secretary of the Commission suggests that Rhys, when writing his article, had not seen the plates afterwards printed with it.



Fig. 142. TOWYN: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 538); inscribed stone.



## Parish of TOWYN.

distinguished from the Old Welsh name *Cincenn*, which would be *Cunocennos* in British, and is now *Cyn-gen*. The second word *celen* is the medieval *celein*, modern *celain* 'dead body'; the use of *e* for the diphthong *ei* is regular in Old Welsh. The use of the genitive before the noun on which it depends was also common. Thus the two words *Cingen celen* clearly mean 'Cynien's body.' Westwood thinks that the two marks at the end denote that the inscription is complete (*Arch. Camb.*, 1850, p. 92); I have, on the contrary, suggested that they denote that it is to be continued, and that the continuation is to be found in the two lines in large lettering on side 2, which is the side next to side 1 on the left. These two lines read

tricet  
nitanam

The first word *tricet* might be indicative in Old Welsh (not necessarily imperative like the modern *triged*); its literal meaning is 'remains,' or as we should say 'lies.' The word *nitanam* contains the obsolete *ni-* 'under' (cognate with *ne-* in English *ne-ther* etc.), and the *tan* now seen in *o dan* 'under'; and there seems to be some evidence for *-am* as an adverbial suffix in Old Welsh, so that the whole word means 'beneath.' These two words taken after the two words on side 1 give the meaning 'Cynien's body lies beneath.'

After examining the stone I have no reason to doubt the correctness of my reading of side no. 3, which (omitting the small letters at the end) is as follows:—

† tengruinmalte(d)gu  
adgan

That is *tengruinmalte(d)gu-adgan*; the *d*, lost by the chipping of the stone, is supplied from Lhuyd's drawings. The meaning of all this is problematical. In saints' names *t* is often the honorific prefix, as in *t-eilo*; so that *tengruin* might stand for *engruin*; and since old *ngr* may give modern *gr*, and old *-uin* is sometimes *-yn* (as *namuin*, *namyn*), the name may be *Egrynn*. This is stated only as a possibility; it cannot be said to amount to a probability. But Llan Egrynn is a neighbouring parish in which there was a place known in the time of Elizabeth "as Croes Egrynn, but there is no cross there now," *Lives of Brit. Saints* ii, p. 415. An inscribed stone with a cross was called a "croes"; can this be croes Egrynn? The question cannot be settled without further evidence.

The name *malte* would now be *Malltedd*, which is not known to exist. The only evidence for the *d* is Ed. Lhuyd's drawings; if we could assume *maltec* it would be identical with the name which survives in *Llan-fallteg*. I take the *gu* to join with the *adgan* in the next line, giving *guadgan*. This would now be *Gwaddian*, and may be the same name as that of St. *Gothian* (found also as *Guoidiane*, and *Guidiane*) now called *Gwithian* in Cornwall, *Lives of Brit. Saints* iii, pp. 249-51. It is seen that the interpretation of these lines is very doubtful; but it is fairly certain that they contain proper names.

The word or words in small letters at the end have been damaged by the fracture. Westwood says (*Arch. Camb.*, 1850, p. 94) that Lhuyd gives them as *{mc* *crta.* But in the MS reproduced above the reading is clearly *{inc* *artr.* The last letter is not damaged, and it certainly is not *a*; probably *r* rather than *n*. The first letter seems to be *m* rather than *in*. The probable reading then is *{mc* *artr.* But the meaning eludes me. Mr. Egerton Phillimore, with much hesitation, suggests *ma|artr* = 'merthyr'?

On side 4 the imperfect second letter looks like the beginning of an *r*; but Lhuyd, who saw it whole, read it *n*. The inscription then reads—

anteruncdubutmarciau

The *cd* and *tm* seem to indicate breaks between words, so that the probable division is

anterunc dubut marciau

The *anter-* may be the old form of *athr-* (as in the modern *cyf-athr-ach*) cognate with Latin *inter*; and the *unc* may be the second element of the modern *rh-wng* 'between'; if so, the meaning of the whole would be 'in between,' and it might denote, like *rhwng*, 'including,' or 'together with.'

If so, *anterunc* is a connective introducing further proper names. I have suggested that *Dubut* is an abbreviation of *Dubutuc*, modern *Dyfodwg*. Mr. Phillimore doubts this; but might not the name have existed as *Dubut* without the suffix *-uc*?

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The last name is *Marciau*. Rhys once thought that he saw an *-n* at the end; but had to confess later that there was no trace of it. With the final *-n* the word would be the correct Early Welsh form of *Meirchion*; but the *-n* is not there. Mr. Phillimore has solved the difficulty by referring to the form *merchiau* in the name *riu merchiau* in the *Book of Llan Dav*, p. 182. As he points out, there is also a *Caiau* as a man's name, *ib.* 226, beside the usual *Caiau*, now *Cayo*. It is not clear how these doublets are to be explained, but they exist; and the actual occurrence of *merchiau* is sufficient corroboration of *Marciau* as an old name.\* The preservation of the *a* unaffected in the first syllable proves the inscription to be older than the Old Welsh period, i.e., earlier than the very earliest written remains of the language.

One letter is doubtful in the small inscription on the top of side 2; it is the second letter in the second line. Westwood read it *l*; Rhys read it *i*. In Lhuyd's drawing above it appears as *d*. I had taken it for *7*, the old sign for *et* 'and.' Using a colon to represent it, the inscription reads—

molt  
c:cepe  
tuar

The letters *mol* may represent the medieval *moll* 'tomb' (*Black Book* 20·8), as *ll* was represented by *l* in Old Welsh. The last six letters are *petuar* 'four' (an older form than the Old Welsh *petguar*, for there is no *g* in the word originally). Rhys suggested for the whole *molt cic petuar* 'mutton flesh of four'—at that time he did not seem to take this stone very seriously. I have suggested 'the tomb (*mol*) of T(egryn), C(yrien), and others (*&c.*) four'; but though there are actually four others,† probably this suggestion is just as wide of the mark. The doubtful letter has a more pronounced turn to the left at the bottom than is to be expected so early in the symbol *7* for 'et'; in the new reproduction it looks more like an inverted C. It is not impossible that *molt* and not *mol* may represent the medieval *moll*; the photograph (cf. Lhuyd's drawing) suggests the reading *molt c. 7c petuar*, which might mean 'the tomb of C(yrien) and four others' (omitting Dubut). If the dot is taken separately as the old suspension mark after *c*, the doubtful letter is more like the symbol for 'et.' But of course it is all very uncertain. For the present, then, this part of the problem must remain unsolved.

The importance of the inscription consists in the fact that it preserves a record of the Welsh language which is older than any other known to exist. It very probably goes back to the seventh century; and if the conjecture about Egryn is correct, it may be dated about 660. All the other inscriptions of that period and earlier, except the Irish Ogams, are in Latin; and the Latin preserves old inflected forms of British proper names, which led Rhys to believe that British (or as he called it, Brythonic) still survived as an inflected language, and that the loss of case-endings, etc., by which loss it became Welsh, took place later, or was beginning to take place late in the seventh century. Now this inscription shows the change completed; it contains Welsh forms, not British; the first name is *Cingen*, not the British genitive *Cunogeni*; and other clearly Welsh forms, with no trace of British inflectional endings, are *celen* and *petuar*. Thus, though much of the inscription remains a riddle, enough has been made out to prove beyond any possible doubt that, while inflected forms survived as a Latin tradition, the conversion of British into Welsh was in fact complete when this stone was cut.

[Illustrated, figs. 141-2.]

*Inscribed Stone.* ii. A stone bearing a plain incised cross, which originally stood at a spot called Bryn Paderau,‡ was found during the restoration of the church, and has been built into the wall of the tower at the south-west angle. It is figured in Westwood *Lapid. Walliae*, pl. lxxvii, fig. 8.

\* Ab Ithel took *marciau* to be the modern *marciau* 'marks'! Though exploded by Rhys this idea does not seem to be quite dead yet. The old Welsh pl. ending is *-ou*. The *a* in Eng. *mark* comes from *e* before *r* + consonant; and a fairly early borrowing would have given *merc*, as we have *cerfio* for *carve*, *person* for *parson*, etc. The idea that *marc* for *mark* can be as old as this stone is too ridiculous to waste words on.

† Namely: Malted, Guadgan, Dubut, Marciau. But Dubut is doubtful, see below.

‡ This is a hill in the neighbourhood of Towyn whence pilgrims to St. Cadvan's shrine signalized their first sight of the parish church by invoking a blessing.

1911  
 110-111  
 TNEGET  
 CADDE MRTAMAM  
 TUVAN  
 GILTEVUTT CILJUVUT-MAT  
 TENTUM MAT  
 SATJATN

Mortuus iacet Cadavan nitor mantes oculis  
 Rega. Melodiam. Circum-tunster tunnilo, nioru mantes  
 Gatevan alle contemplans caelastem.  
 Yol Mortuus jacet Cadavan, nitor mantes  
 Cenon iavit mel. Civer tenster tunnilo  
 Mercionem tia Cadavan ultra  
 Cundario in Cole.

Dead with Cadavan by the brightays  
 of his mind, his speech dropped  
 as honey. He is held mel in  
 the grave. But then Cadavan  
 expected thy reward hereafter in  
 heaven.

I mae Cadian yngorwcu gwedi  
 mawr, gan eglwys y fel ei fedd  
 of oanethod ei wrath fel mel.  
 Ynaron of a Heli ym Dof ym  
 ei fedd. Byd Tyd y gafan ym y  
 etho ym disgrifol am dy wob  
 young nafodd.

FIG. 141. TOWYN: THE PARISH CHURCH (No. 538): inscribed stone; reproduction of Lhnyd MS.



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*Inscribed Stone.* iii. It is known from Gough's edition of Camden's *Britannia*, iii, p. 172; Westwood's *Lapidarium Walliae*, p. 160, pl. lxxvii, fig. 3, that a stone bearing the letters P A S C E N T at one time stood in the churchyard of Towyn. The stone has disappeared, and it is not at all impossible that it was built into the walls during the restoration of the church already referred to.

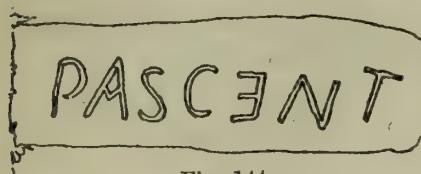


Fig. 144.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS).

540. *Carn March Arthur* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 48 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 33' 50''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 30''$ ).

This is a partly earth-fast boulder on the south slopes of Tyddyn y briddell hill, 800 feet above ordnance datum, on which is an impression roughly resembling a horse's hoof, 6 inches long and 4 inches deep. There seems to be no tradition respecting the stone, or explanation of its association with the famous Arthur.—Visited, 6th May, 1914.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

541. *Beddau'r Gwroniaid*, 'the graves of the brave' (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E.).

A number of mounds bearing the above name are mentioned by the late Mr. R. P. Morris in his *Cantref Meirionydd*, p. 261, as lying on the slopes of Mynydd Maes Pentre, near Pen Eisteddfa, but they were then inconspicuous, and becoming steadily more so. One of the mounds is said to have been opened in 1877 when a little charcoal was discovered, and a stone beside it, but no mention is made of pottery. After a diligent search no traces of the mounds could be met with, and the Inspecting Officer was informed by Catherine Owen, of Abergynolwyn, an old but active and intelligent woman, that they had now quite disappeared.—Visited, 27th July, 1914.

542. *Pen Eisteddfa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 42''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 35''$ ).

A natural hollow on the slope of the hill of Pen Eisteddfa which is also called 'Eisteddfa Cadfan,' 'St. Cadfan's Seat.' It is about 25 yards below Llwybr Cadfan, and near about the position indicated.—Visited, 27th July, 1914.

543. *Eglwys y Gwyddelod* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 42''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 28''$ ).

At the spot on the farm of Perfeddnant, thus indicated, are traces of a rectangular building, lying east and west, which goes by the above name. The building was about 12 feet broad at the east end. The walls are about 3 feet thick, and about 10 feet of the north wall remains; the rest has utterly disappeared. It is difficult to regard these ruins as those of a small church; it is still more difficult to account for the name by which they are known.—Visited, 1st August, 1914.

NOTE.—Two other sites in the parish are known by the name Eglwys y Gwyddelod, but those spots display no signs of buildings.

544. *Garnedd fraith* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 S.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 34' 50''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 5' 34''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 1285. There are no present remains of a carnedd at this spot. Immediately to the north the Tithe Schedule (No. 1288) locates Garnedd ddu.—Visited, 4th May, 1914.

545. *Cae Croes* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 10''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 18''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 2319. The site is on the boundary between this parish and that of Llanfihangel y pennant, and a cross may have stood here in the medieval period, though there is no present indication of one.—Visited, 4th May, 1914.

## Parish of TOWYN.

547. *Cae pensarn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 48 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 33' 42''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 30''$ ).

A footpath, which at some time may have been paved, passes through the field indicated above. Tithe Schedule, No. 934.—Visited, 6th May, 1914.

548. *Brym yr Orsedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 48 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 33' 38''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 50''$ ).

A field on the farm of Dyffryn glyn cûl where is now no appearance of a "brym" or "gorsedd"; the name is not known. Tithe Schedule, No. 932.—Visited, 6th May, 1914.

549. *Maes ym Mhenal* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 47 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 35' 8''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 22''$ ).

This is flat land, formerly open common but now enclosed, to the west of the village of Pennal, and through which passes the main road between Towyn and Pennal formerly known as 'Wtra Pennal.' Here, according to tradition, a sanguinary struggle took place during the Wars of the Roses of which Sir John Wynn in his "History of the Gwydir Family" (ed. 1826, p. 55) speaks thus: "some affirme John ap Meredith to have beene at a field in Penyal for Tho' Gruff', which field was fought betweene Tho' Gruff' ap Nicolas\* and Henry ap Gwillim, and the earle of Pembroke's captaines, where Tho' Gruff' got the field, but received there his death's wound." The footnote to this statement adds that "Pennal, where Tho' Gruff' ap Nicolas was wounded, is known by tradition and lieth in Wthre Bennal in the parish of Towin, over against Llidiart y parke crache, and in the midst of the way, but received there his death's wound."—Visited, 11th June, 1914.

Morris, *Cantref Meirionydd*, 497.

550. *Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 41 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 38' 9''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 13''$ ).

A mountain enclosure appurtenant to the farm of Tan y coed ucha, where the name was not known, nor was any monument visible.

551. *Cae'r brenin* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 34' 31''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 4' 13''$ ).

This field doubtless obtained its name from having been a portion of the former crown lands. Mr. Morris (*Cantref Meirionydd*, 550) speaks of some Roman bricks (*priddfeini*) as having been found in this enclosure, but nothing was known at the farm of such a discovery.—Visited, 5th May, 1914.

552. *Llain y Brenin* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 48 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 33' 35''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 1' 22''$ ).

A slang of land which doubtless received its name for the same reason as the preceding site.

553. *Nant y mynach* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 25''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 0' 12''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 2171. A name derived from possession by some monastic house, but its history cannot be further elucidated.

554. *Tan y sarn* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 46 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 36' 43''$ , long.  $4^{\circ} 3' 44''$ ).

There are now no indications of a causeway; a neighbouring cottage is called Pen y sarn.—Visited, 30th April, 1914.

\* The father of Sir Rhys ap Thomas, K.G.

## Parish of TOWYN.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

555. *Stone Celts.* Two stone (chert) celts, one  $5\frac{1}{8}$  in., the other  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. in length; found together some years ago in the immediate vicinity of the town of Towyn; now in the possession of the Rev. D. R. Pugh at the Vicarage, Towyn.—Seen, 2nd April, 1912.

556. *Stone Celt.* A fine stone (chert) celt, 12 in. long, 4 in. maximum breadth, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick, was found some years ago in a field near Pant y neuadd, and is now in the possession of Mr. H. Haydn Jones, M.P. for Co. Merioneth. The cutting edge is perfect, but there is a slight fracture of the butt-end.—Seen, 23rd July, 1914.

557. *Urns.* About forty years ago a number of urns were discovered in the garden of Pant y neuadd, the residence of Mr. H. Haydn Jones, M.P., during the removal of an old hedge. Some were sent to various places, including a London museum, the remainder were re-interred in the garden of Pant y neuadd, but the exact spot has been forgotten, and a diligent search has hitherto been unsuccessful. One small vessel belonging to this hoard was retained, and is still in the possession of Mr. Haydn Jones. It is an incense cup, slightly over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. high,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter across the lip, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. deep.—Seen, 23rd July, 1914.

558. *Bronze Palstave.* A bronze palstave, socketed, but without loops,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  in. long, and ornamented on one side of the socket, was found in a turbary at Mynachty Gwyn. It passed into the possession of the late Dr. Pughe of Aberdovey, and is illustrated in *Arch. Camb.* for 1871 (IV, ii, 21). Its present location is not known.

559. *Gold Coin of Henry V.* In the year 1825 a gold noble of Henry V was found at Nant y glo near Aberdovey (see Ms. note of Rev. Walter Davies (*Gwallter Mechain*) in Nat. Library of Wales; also *Gwaith Gwallter Mechain*, iii, 341). The coin is minutely described by Dr. Samuel Butler, headmaster of Shrewsbury School, in a letter dated 8th March, 1826 (*Life*, 1896, i, 297).

560. In the autumn of 1879 a piece of slate bearing certain marks which were thought to be of extreme antiquity, was discovered. The late Mr. Park Harrison in an article in *Arch. Camb.*, 1882, IV, xiii, 112, maintained its genuineness as the work of primitive man, but opinions of distinguished archeologists were adverse to that claim. The piece of slate passed into the possession of the late Mr. R. Williams of Newtown, but its present location is unknown.

## Parish of TRAWSFYNYDD.

## DIVISION Ib (CARNEDDAU).

561. *Cae'r Garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 N.E.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 18''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 15''$ ).

This is a field on the farm of Nant budr in Cwm Prysor in which are the remains of a carnedd now incorporated into one of the field banks. The carnedd is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. high, and some 15 ft. in diameter. In the same field, about 20 yards north of the former, is a grass-covered heap of stones, which has all the appearance of a low carnedd.—Visited, 24th September, 1914.

## Parish of TRAWSFYNYDD.

563. *Rhos tan y Castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 27 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 30''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 48''$ ).

At the upper end of a steep enclosure on the farm of Gwynfynydd is a cairn which has been disturbed. It is about 6 ft. high, and 35 ft. in diameter. There are no traditions associated with it.—Visited, 21st April, 1914.

564. *Bedd Porius* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 52''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 50''$ ).

This famous stone, which bears the inscription **HIC IN TUMULO IACIT PORIUS HOMO PLANUS FUIT**, lies flat upon a low mound of small stones, almost certainly not its original site. The lettering has been tampered with and added to during the recent occupation of the neighbourhood as a military centre. It has been much discussed in *Arch. Camb.*, 1846, I, i, 426 ; 1874, IV, v. 78 ; 1896, V, xiii, 137 ; 1897, V, xiv, 138 ; and is illustrated in Westwood, *Lapid. Walliae*, plate 77, No. 7 ; Hübner, *Inscr. Christ. Brit.* No. 131.—Visited, 3rd September, 1913.

NOTE.—As pointing to a possible connexion between this stone and the monastery of Cymmer Abbey it may be noted that the meadow next to that in which the stone rests is called Dol y mynach (see No. 581, below). Tithe Schedule, No. 2342.

[Illustrated, fig. 146.]

## DIVISION Id (MEINI HIRION).

565. *Llech Idris* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 43''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 5''$ ).

This is a well-known monolith of 10 feet maximum height, standing about 300 yards south-west of the stone of Porius. Tithe Schedule, No. 2299.—Visited, 3rd September, 1913.



Fig. 147.

566. *Maenllwyd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 41''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 18''$ ).

A stone standing slightly out of the perpendicular on the farm of Bryn y maenllwyd ; its extreme height is 5 ft.—Visited, 14th September, 1914.

## DIVISION Ie (CIRCLES, ETC.).

567. This parish contains numerous circles usually termed "Cyttiau Gwyddelod," and occurring either singly or in groups, of which the following are the most prominent :—

(i) (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 26''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 59' 10''$ ).

This circle, measuring 12 feet in diameter, is situated near Llyn twr glas. Adjoining it on the north is a ruined rectangular enclosure. Both structures are probably medieval.—Visited, 21st September, 1914.

(ii) (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 47''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 52''$ ).

This is another circle, with a rectangular annexe. About 75 yards to the north is a semi-circular enclosure formed of large boulders. All these remains are probably sheep folds of uncertain age.—Visited, 21st September, 1914.

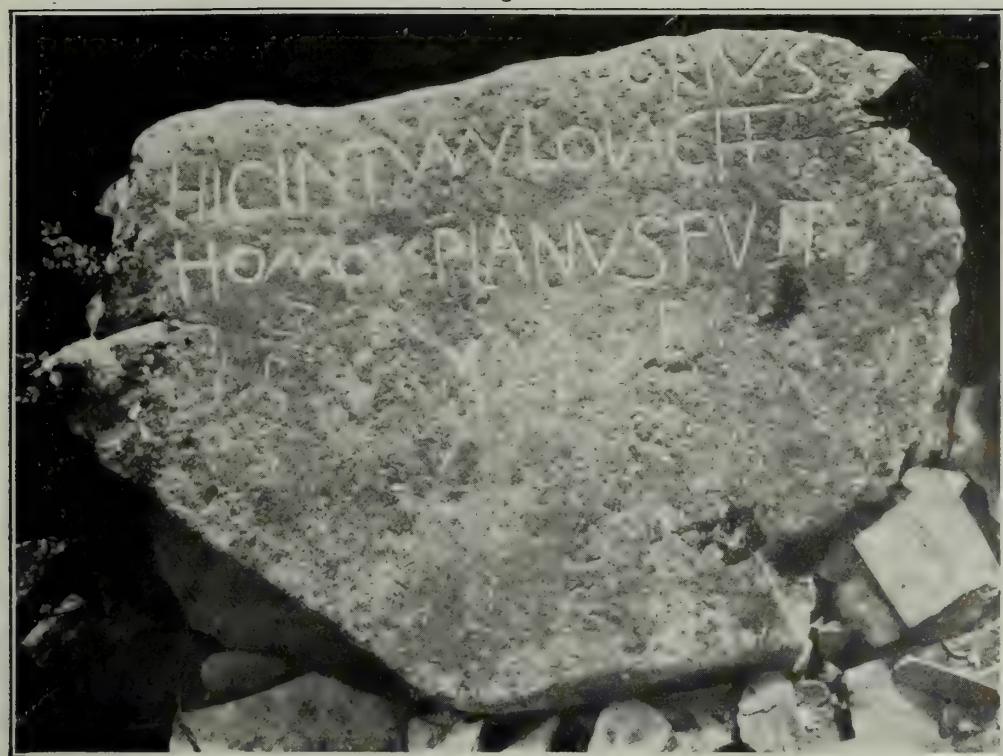


FIG. 146. TRAWSFINYDD; Porius inscribed stone (No. 564).



FIG. 147. LLANDRILLO: BLAEN Y CWM; inscribed stone (No. 230, i).



## Parish of TRAWSFNYDD.

(iii) (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 29''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 51' 7''$ ).

A much-ruined oval enclosure on the farm of Hendre bryn crogwydd, 32 ft. by 23 ft. About 300 yards to the north-west and close to the farmhouse is another almost circular enclosure.—Visited, 10th September, 1914.

## DIVISION II (EARTHWORKS), SUB-DIVISION E (MOUNT CASTLES WITH ATTACHED COURTS).

568. *Castell Prysor* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 52''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 50' 50''$ ).

The mound-castle of Cwm Prysor is situated in the valley of that name, about 100 yards from the little river Prysor. The valley, which is very stony, has offered abundant material, intermixed with earth, for the construction of the mound. The exterior has been faced with stones of about the size of a man's head in a manner betokening care and design, thus giving the structure an unusual and striking appearance. The height is about 25 feet, and the diameter at the summit about 40 feet. The top is slightly sunken, and a low wall of earth and stone runs round the edge, or the appearance of a wall may have been occasioned by the subsidence of the interior mass. The base of the mound has been dug into on the east and west sides, and this has occasioned a fall of some of the stone facing. On the north side of the mound is a small court, 50 feet by 60 feet, raised about 6 feet above the surrounding level, and beyond this court is a rectangular enclosure about 70 feet by 30 feet, both of which appear to be coeval with the mound.—Visited, 2nd September, 1913.

NOTE.—It is highly probable that this is the Sinadon (a mis-reading for Sniadon, *i.e.*, Snowdon) Castle of the English records. A note in Peniarth MS. 135 (Nat. Library of Wales), written by Gruffydd Hiraethog about the year 1560, refers to Castell y Berè, “a elwir yn y seki sinadon kastell” (*i.e.*, “styled in the Exchequer [of Carnarvon] records Sinadon Castle”). This is almost certainly an erroneous identification. The district of Prysor was part of the administrative Forest of Snowdon, and doubtless the chief forester resided at the Castle. The castle was probably the construction of some Welsh chieftain, possibly of Gruffydd ap Cynan, as a reply to the menace of William Rufus in throwing up the castle-mound of Tomen y Mur (see No. 492A). Speed, however, on his map of Carnarvonshire, shows a Sinadon Castle as surrounded by the sea a little to the west of Conway.

In the 32nd year of Elizabeth (A.D. 1590) a Special Commission (Pub. Record Office. *Exchequer, Special Commissions. Merioneth*; 32 Eliz., No. 3458) issued out of the Exchequer to delimit two of the ancient Welsh tribal holdings by sufficient “metes and bounds and merestakes” from the firth or forest of Prysor, and from the lands of other free tenants of the same. This the Commissioners proceeded to do with the aid of a number of jurors, who testified that one of the holdings called Tir Male “is divided from the said forest of Prysor by certain hedges, and from other lands, as follows:—By an old hedge east of the river Trower,\* thence by a certain house called Dol Haidd to the little stream (*gurgitem*) called Nant y Crogwr,† thence ascending to a place called Rhyd Galed, thence by the high road leading around (*circiter*) Bryn y Crogwr to the end of a certain hedge (*sepes*) called Kay yr Orseth, and thence by a worked-stone (*metal*) hedge of the free land of Elis ap Hoell ap R. to the said river Trower; thence by a certain fosse and old ruined stone wall abutting on Hengoed and le Ffrith bach in the tenure of Elis ap Hoell up to the pool (*polam*) called Llyn Conglog and thence by a certain rivulet or mill-stream (*gurgitem*) called Aber y cay gwyn, and thence ascending by a stone hedge up to the summit (*cacumen*) of Carreg y gath,‡ and thence along y Sarn Brisor over against the castle of Prysor up to the next Clawdd lloid [*i.e.*, llwyd], and so to the river Trower, and by that river up to the hedge of the aforesaid Dol Haidd.” The holding is probably coterminous with the modern farm of Dol Haidd.

And of Tir mab Eillder [aillt-dir=bond land] they say that “one piece of the same called Lloyn y Kymero is well known by these bounds, viz., by a small rivulet or mill stream which falls into the river Trower, thence up to the pool of Erehlyn,†† thence to the common called Yr Wylva, thence by a high hedge (*sepem superiorem*) up to the free land of Owen Wynne, esq., called Glan Llavar, thence descending by the bounds of that land of Glan Llavar to the river Trower, and so by that river to the river descending from the pool of Erehlyn.” Another parcel of the said land of mab Eillder called Bryn y Grivolen,|| viz., from a place called Llidiart y dwr, descending by a certain rivulet to Ty yn y Nant, thence to Dol Ieuau ap Crach, and thence to Llidiart y Carnethee, thence by a certain fosse to the turbary beyond (or above, *ultra*) Bryn y Grywiolen, and so to an old stone hedge or wall leading to the aforesaid Llidiart y dwr.”

## DIVISION III (STONE STRUCTURES—DOMESTIC).

569. *Rhiw Goch* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 4''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 6''$ ).

This is a small mansion of the early 17th century which a few years ago retained many of its original features, but having passed into the possession of the

\* The Trywerin. This stream flows southwards from the south-eastern end of Llyn Trywerin; the stream now known as Afon Prysor flows from the western end of the same little lake, and it is evident that at the time of the enquiry both streams were known as the Trywerin.

† Nant Braich y Ceunant, a tributary of Afon Prysor.

‡ Probably an error for Carreg y garn.

†† Llyn Hiraethlyn on the 6 inch Ord. sheet.

|| Ty'n y griafolen is close to the village of Trawsfynydd, and Ty'n y carnedde is a neighbouring cottage.

## Parish of TRAWSFNYDD.

War Department and been occupied as officers' quarters both before and during the whole period of the war, it has lost all its old-world charm. The exterior walls doubtless remain, but the interior has been ruthlessly altered to adapt it to the requirements of the military. A good description of it before its mutilation will be found in *Arch. Camb.*, 1857, III, iii, 23 (illustrated).—Visited, 3rd September, 1913.

## DIVISION IV (ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURES).

570. *The Parish Church* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 N.W.). Ded : St. Madryn. Diocese of Bangor ; archdeaconry of Merioneth ; rural deanery of Ardudwy.

This church consists of a long rectangular chamber without structural division between nave and chancel, a shorter south aisle the eastern termination of which aligns with the east wall of the earlier chamber, a south porch, and a western gable with bell-cote. It underwent thorough restoration in 1853-4. The arcade between the two aisles now consists of three octagonal wooden piers, which support a flat entablature made from discarded pews, two of which bear the dates 1772 and 1779. The south chamber was probably added in the 16th century, the roof being of plain Perpendicular construction. The old font is preserved. The churchyard contains a four-sided dial pillar, but no plate. There is a lychgate on the south side. The oldest dated gravestone that was noticed is of the year 1726.—Visited, 9th September, 1913.

Glynne, 'Notes,' *Arch. Camb.*, 1901, VI, i, 141.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—ROADS).

571. *Sarn Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 27 N.W., 20 S.W. and N.W., 12 S.W.).

As the Roman station of Tomen y Mur lies only a few yards outside the northern boundary of this parish, it is certain that there must exist within its limits a roadway which, if not constructed by the Romans, was used by them as the method of approach from north and south to that station. This road would seem to have passed the fort on its eastern side, its northern prolongation (in the parishes of Maentwrog and Festiniog) being directly towards Beddau Gwyr Ardudwy (see No. 65), and, ultimately, Canovium. Southwards it must have made for Pennal, which, by reason of its position on a tidal river, was doubtless an important point in the Roman scheme of military administration ; but it cannot be satisfactorily traced along the long and gradual descent to the valley of the Wnion and Mawddach. There can be no doubt its course is indicated fairly closely by the ancient road which is called Sarn Elen, but a stretch of road, also called Sarn Elen or Ffordd Elen, running in a direction which the line of Roman communications never could have pursued, complicates the problem. It may, however, be suggested that going southwards from Tomen y mur the road entered the parish of Trawsfynydd at 12 S.W., lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 44''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 20''$ , passing the sites of several scattered tumuli which are not marked in the modern Ordnance sheets but appear on the original 1 inch map. The precise course of the road becomes obscure, but is probably identical with an old track leading past Tyddyn y felin issa, and within a few yards to the west of Trawsfynydd railway station, where it traverses the side of the hill between low banks south of the Station Road. About 300 yards further south it passes through a field called 'Buarth y carneddi' in the Tithe Schedule (No. 577 below), crossing the Prysor streamlet at a ford. Still pursuing a direct southerly course it is almost certainly to be identified with a paved way running east of the farm of Ty'n y llyn, whence it makes for the farm of Plas captain, where, as we learn from the Tithe Schedule (No. 1327), the field immediately to the north-east of the farm is called 'Cae pen y stryd.' Here the road is known as 'Sarn Elen.' Continuing its southward course the road crosses the tiny stream on Brynllefrith farm, after which trending slightly eastwards, it is quite unmistakable for a stretch of about 500 yards above and 500 yards below the farm of Pen y stryd (20 S.E., lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 24''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 40''$ ). It is here a grassy track with a wide stone paving beneath the turf, the causeway itself slightly raised above the general level, with a ditch on one and sometimes on both sides, bordered at intervals with flat stones laid on edge. Further south it passes within 500 yards to the west of Llech Idris, and becomes identified with, and obscured by, the old Dolgelly-Trawsfynydd road (27 N.W., lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 55''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 50''$ ), eventually

## Parish of TRAWSFONYDD.

arriving at Bwlch y ffordd. Here it becomes lost among several mountain trackways, but it probably kept on the eastern side of the Eden river, and passed slightly east of an ancient site called Castell Coch. Still keeping to the right bank of the Eden it enters the parish of Llanfachreth, crossing the Mawddach at or near Pont Newydd, a name which postulates an old bridge on or near its immediate site. But the latter part of the road is not evidenced by clear indications or significant place names.—Traversed in September, 1914.

572. *Ffordd Elen* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 N.E., 12 S.E., and S.W.).

Several roads are called by this name, doubtless all of them of considerable antiquity, and (so far as they can be linked up and followed) all appear to join the true Sarn Elen at some point of their course. One of these roads runs westwards past the farms of Dol belydr, Dol ddinas, Bryn celynog, and near Castell Prysor. This was most probably the direct route to that mound-castle, and it would almost of necessity make for the direct road through the district from the Roman post of Tomen y Mur which has been traced in the preceding article.

Another road, bearing roughly in a west to east direction, starts from the Sarn Elen at a point a little south of the "ffordd" just dealt with. This trackway passes between Llech Idris and Bedd Porius, and is locally regarded as a part of the Roman road, but its general direction makes this improbable.

## DIVISION V (MISCELLANEOUS—WELLS).

573. *Well* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 48''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 49''$ ).

On the western slopes of Moel ddu at the height of 1,000 feet, are a well and well chamber of which nothing is known. The water, which rises abundantly into the well, passes into a chamber about 8 feet square, having the southern side slightly extended to make room for a short flight of steps. Round the well chamber is a low wall, but it is impossible to say whether the structure has been roofed. The depth of water was 11 inches. Enquiry failed to elicit any name for the well, or any tradition respecting it.—Visited, 3rd September, 1913.

NOTE.—It may be suggested that as two fields about 500 yards westward from the well are called 'Bryn yr Eglwys' (Tithe Schedule, Nos. 1507-8), there may have been here a small monastic grange, with which the well was connected.

## DIVISION VI (SITES OF HISTORIC OR ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST).

574. *Cae'r garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 16''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 12''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, 1124. A field on the farm of Nant budr. There is no present appearance of a carnedd in this field.—Visited, 2nd September, 1913.

575. *Buarth y garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 N.E. ; lat  $52^{\circ} 54' 38''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 51' 25''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No 906. A field on the northern bank of the river Prysor, with no appearance of a carnedd at present, but a large pile of stones in the covert west of it may represent a dismantled cairn.—Visited, 2nd September, 1913.

576. *Buarth y garnedd* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 12 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 55' 3''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 55' 10''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 568. A field on the farm of Islyn, with no present appearance of a cairn.—Visited, 5th September, 1913.

577. *Buarth y carnelli* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 2''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 35''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 693. There are several grass-covered heaps of stone which may be the remains of ruined cairns. The field is on the suggested line of the Sarn Elen (see No. 571 and 568 note, above).—Visited, 1st September, 1913.

## Parish of TRAWSFNYDD.

578. *Ffridd maen hir* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 19 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 50''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 58' 45''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, No. 15. An enclosure on the farm of Wern Cyfrdwy (also called 'Wern ucha') the name of which is unknown to the present occupier. There is no maenhir. The Ordnance sheet shows a "Hut Circle" (see No. 567, ii, above) on the "ffridd," but that, too, has been almost entirely cleared away.—Visited, 24th September, 1914.

579. *Pen y stryd issa* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 11''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 53' 48''$ ).

The "street" indicated in the above place-name is the Sarn Elen in its southward course from the Roman station of Tomen y mur. It is desirable that the name should be recorded, as the house, which is the property of the War Department, has been suffered to become a ruin, and the materials are being carried away to mend the roads.—Visited, 10th September, 1913.

579A. *Carnedd Iago* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 13 N.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 56' 56''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 48' 48''$ ).

A little over 200 yards south of a low mound directly south of the boundary line of the counties of Merioneth and Denbigh, here marked by small upright stones, and on a patch of sloping ground, is a hollow of about 18 feet in diameter. This is probably the site of Carnedd Iago which stood on the boundary between the parishes of Trawsfynydd and Llanycil. A quantity of stones are scattered around.—Visited, 23rd September, 1914.

580. *Bryn yr Eglwys* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 52' 42''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 20''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, Nos. 1507-8. Two small meadows belonging to the farm of Tyddyn bach, about 500 yards to the west of the well already described (No. 573), and somewhat less to the barely discernible track of Sarn Elen. No explanation of the name other than that already given in connection with the aforesaid well can be offered. The occupier of Tyddyn bach said he had heard that in an abandoned enclosure now called Cae ysgellog immediately east of field No. 1507 a burial was once discovered, but he could not point out the site or give any particulars.—Visited, 3rd September, 1913.

581. *Dol mynach* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 S.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 49''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 47''$ ).

A meadow containing a house which is now a heap of ruins, having been used as a target for artillery practice. The name cannot be explained otherwise than by the suggestion that it was part of the possessions of the Abbey of Cymmer in this parish. It may be added that in the meadow on the opposite bank of the river Cain is the inscribed slab of Porius, that at the bottom of Dol mynach the stream is crossed by Pont y mynach which leads into the field where stands the Llech Idris, and that Sarn Elen, which here is a road adopted and perhaps made by the Romans, is not more than 500 yards away. The monks of Cymmer Abbey at the dissolution of the monastery had property in the parish of Trawsfynydd to the value of £5 per annum (Pub. Record Office: Ministers' Accounts, 1203, No 4); one tenement is called Bedd y keydon (or keydou), which may have reference to the grave of Porius.

582. *Cae'r rhynghyllaid* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 N.E. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 54' 14''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 52' 45''$ ).

A farmhouse so called, and representing probably the dwelling of a former ringild of Uwchartro.

583. *Hen gastell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 S.W. ; lat.  $52^{\circ} 51' 27''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 26''$ ).

Tithe Schedule, Nos. 1827-8. A natural eminence.—Visited, 10th September, 1913.

## Parish of TRAWSFNYDD.

584. *Bryn castell* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 27 N.W.; lat.  $52^{\circ} 50' 38''$ , long.  $3^{\circ} 54' 25''$ ).

This is a large enclosure on the Dolgelly-Trawsfynydd road, immediately south of Capel Eden. The name is not known, and a school teacher who had taken special interest in the search for it had not been able to obtain information. There are no antiquarian remains. Tithe Schedule, No. 2047.—Visited, 10th September, 1913.

585. *Carreg yr ogof* (6 in. Ord. Surv. sheet, Mer. 20 N.W.).

This is a site immediately to the north of the parish church of Trawsfynydd, which, though containing no monument of antiquity, is well worthy of a visit as exhibiting an excellent example of the fictitious forms of man's handiwork assumed by the natural boulders which are scattered around.

## DIVISION VII (FINDS).

586. *Stone celts*. Two stone celts said to have been found at or near Graig ddu, Trawsfynydd, were exhibited to the members of the Cambrian Archaeological Association at Machynlleth in 1866, but nothing is known of them now.

586A. *A Cinerary Urn* from Trawsfynydd is mentioned in *Arch. Journal*, xxiv. Its height is said to have been  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It appears to have been of the type of Abercrombie 87. It contained some burnt bones, a wooden bodkin or needle, 6 in. long, and a small bronze dagger-blade (*Arch. Journal*, xxiv, 16, 17; *Arch. Camb.*, III, xiv, 241; Evans, *Bronze Implements*, p. 433).

586B. *Bronze palstave*. Now in the British Museum. Nothing is known of the circumstances of its discovery.

[*Illustrated, fig. 151 (2).*]

587. *Late Celtic Vessel*. In the Mayer Collection of the Liverpool City Museum is a bronze tankard of the Late-Celtic period, which is said to have been found in a turbary at Trawsfynydd.



Fig. 148.

It is fully described, and its relationship to other objects of that period exhaustively discussed by the late Mr. J. Romilly Allen, F.S.A., in *Arch. Camb.*, 1896, V, xiii, 212.



Fig. 149.

**Parish of TRAWSFNYDD.**

588. *Gold Finger Ring.* A plain but massive gold finger ring was found "near Trawsfynydd" many years ago (*Arch. Camb.*, 1860, III, vi, 152), the location of which is not now known.

589. *Bronze celt.* In the diary of Stukeley (published by the Surtees Society in its *Proceedings*, 1885, vol. lxxx, p. 443) is the entry :—

" 23rd December, 1763. A brass celt given to me by Mr. Fleming, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long. A dozen together found under a great stone." Note to above: "It is a palstave, and was probably found in Merionethshire."

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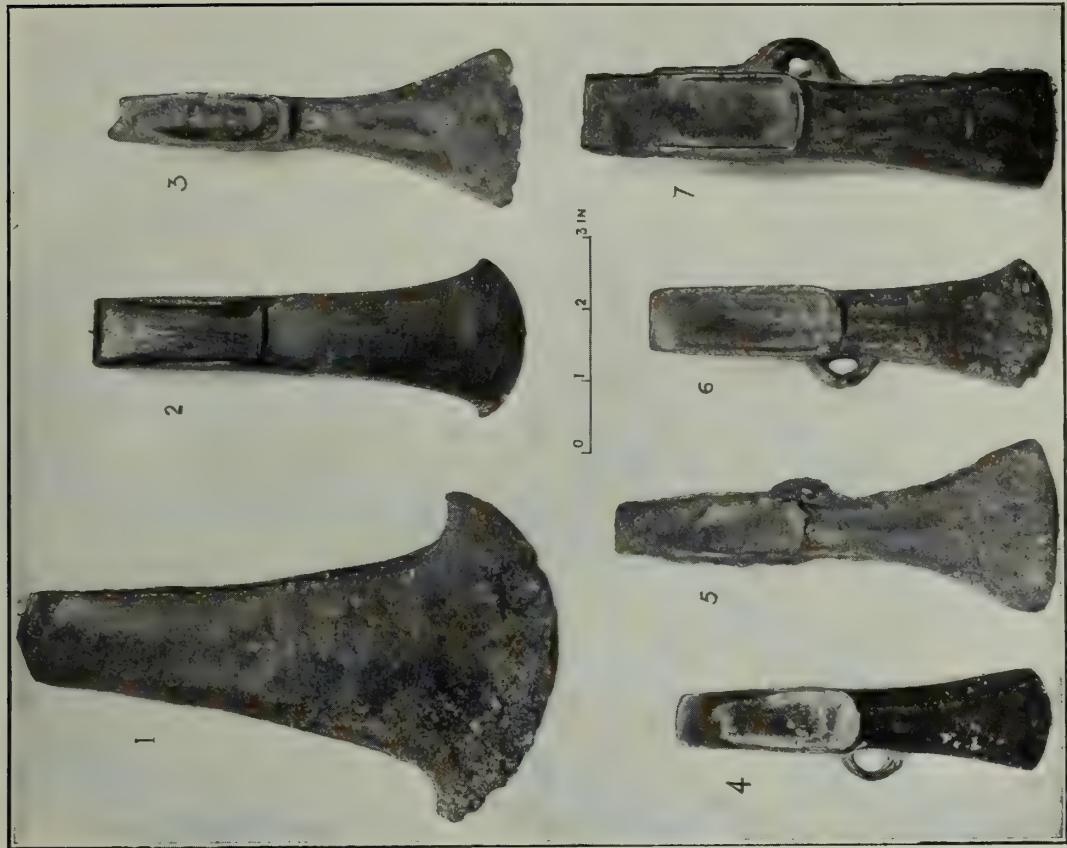


FIG. 151.  
 (1) PENRHYNEDDRAETH (No. 516).  
 (2) TRAWSFYNNODD (No. 586B).  
 (3) FESTINIOG; BEDDAU GWYR ARDUDWY (No. 88).  
 (4) and (5) LLANDANWG (No. 171A and AA).  
 (6) MAENTWROG (No. 500).  
 (7) LLANFAIR (No. 341).

MERIONETHSHIRE BRONZE WEAPONS AND IMPLEMENTS IN BRITISH MUSEUM.

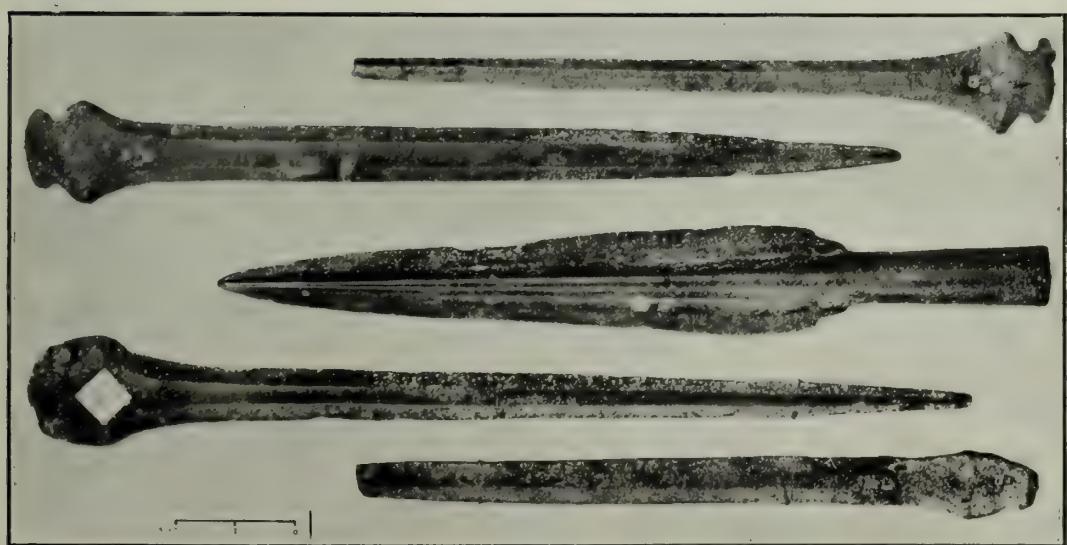


FIG. 150. CWM MOCH, MAENTWROG;  
 find of bronze weapons (No. 500A).  
 (1) (2) (3) (4) (5)



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## REFERENCE

- Tumuli (earth) ...
- Carneddau (stone) ...
- Cromlechau ...
- Stone Circles & Alignments ...
- Meini Hirion ...
- Inscribed Stones ...

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#### REFERENCE

Prehistoric Pottery		+
"	(broken)	
Stone Implements	.	+
Bronze	.	+
Late Celtic	...	S
Roman (coins, pottery, etc.)	.	⊕

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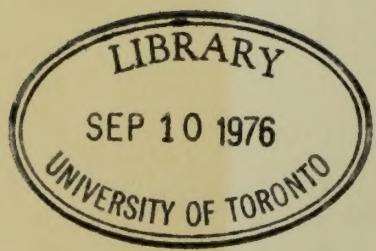
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